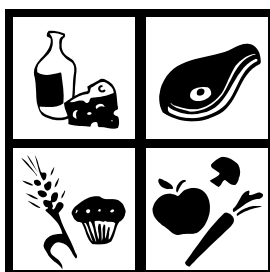
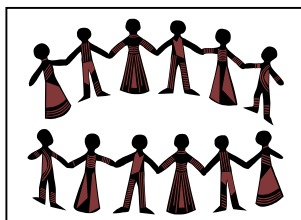
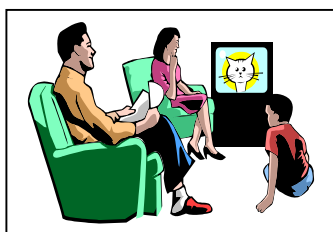
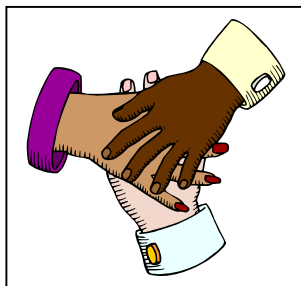
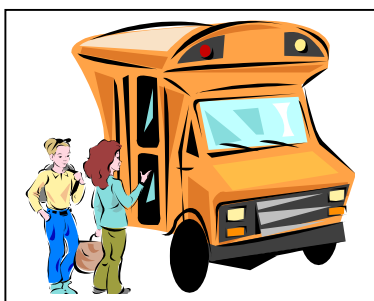
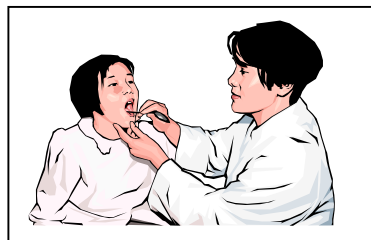
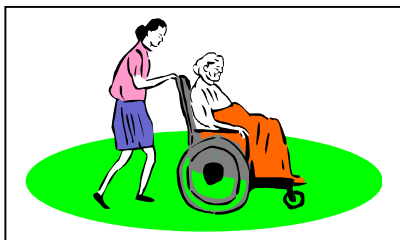


# CARBON COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



December 2002

# **CARBON COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Prepared for the  
**Tripartite Board**  
of the  
**Carbon County Community Action Committee**  
**P. O. Box 6**  
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**December 2002**

The Community Needs Assessment was prepared under the direction of the  
**Carbon County Community Action Committee  
Tripartite Board**

**Board of Directors**

**Linda Smith, Chair**  
Carbon County Clerk, Rawlins

**Cindy Baldwin**  
Carbon County Treasurer, Rawlins

**Wayne Couch II, MD**  
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## **1.1 PURPOSE**

### **1.1.1 Background**

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) represents one of various sources of public funds that help support community services in the United States of America. The Community Services Block Grant Act, which was enacted in 1982, shifted primary responsibility of community low-income human services programs from the federal to the state governmental level. In Wyoming, the CSBG funding process is administered by the Wyoming Department of Health, Community Services Program.

The Carbon County Community Action Committee Tripartite Board is a private non-profit organization that is the eligible contracting entity for community service agencies in Carbon County. State Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds that are received to help support community service agencies in Carbon County are typically provided to the Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board.

In this context, the Tripartite Board has the responsibility to review CSBG funding requests, determine community service needs, and provide funds to various agencies. The Tripartite Board annually prepares a Community Action Plan. The planning process associated with the Community Action Plan is used to determine unmet community service needs and priorities. The Community Action Plan includes, at least, the following components:

- preparation of a Community Needs Assessment;
- a description of the service delivery system;
- a description of agency linkages;
- a description of funding coordination with public and private resources; and,
- a description of anticipated outcome measures, utilizing Wyo-Roma elements, to monitor success in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization,

### **1.1.2 Study Objective**

The Carbon County Community Needs Assessment was intended to evaluate the adequacy of existing community services, determine unmet community service needs, and develop a short-term strategy that can help improve the scope and delivery of community services in Carbon County.

## **1.2 PLANNING PROCESS**

### **1.2.1 Inventory of Existing Community Services**

The Community Needs Assessment inventoried existing community service agencies and organizations in Carbon County. Initially, this effort relied significantly upon available information from the existing Community Resource Directory.

Available community service providers were identified in terms of the general type of services provided and the service delivery area they serve. The Carbon County service delivery area comprises the ten municipalities of Baggs, Dixon, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Riverside, Saratoga, Sinclair, as well as all of the unincorporated area of Carbon County.

### **1.2.2 Evaluation of Community Service Needs and Priorities**

The adequacy of existing community service programs, the determination of unmet community service needs, and community service priorities were initially evaluated from the perspective of users/clients, service providers, and the general public. These varying perspectives were gained through PPC's organization and facilitation of four public meetings, the preparation and administration of a Community Needs Survey, and the preparation of a Priority Rating Form.

Overall conclusions concerning each issue, e.g., job opportunities for youth and young adults, were ultimately made by Pedersen Planning Consultants through its consideration of, at least, the following:

- the validity and importance of issues through the correlation of perceived needs from user/clients, service providers, the general public, and other available information;
- the feasibility of recommendations identified by user/clients, service providers, and the general public;
- correlation of perceived needs and recommendations with national Community Service Block Grant program goals; and,
- the insights gained from the Carbon County Community Action Committee Tripartite Board.

#### **1.2.2.1 Public Meetings**

Four meetings were held in Carbon County (Table 1-1) to solicit resident views concerning the adequacy of existing services, community service needs, and recommendations that might address unmet needs or inadequate service delivery. The meetings were advertised via public notices in the Rawlins Daily Times, flyers that were mailed to each of the ten municipalities in Carbon County, as well as flyers provided to approximately 75 Carbon County service providers. Meeting flyers were also posted in selected public places throughout the County such as post offices, senior centers, and county libraries.

**TABLE 1-1**  
**PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance (number of persons)</b>
Saratoga Town Hall	June 27, 2002	7-9 pm.	10
Medicine Bow Town Hall	July 1, 2002	7-9 pm.	12
Baggs Town Hall	July 2, 2002	7-9 pm.	7
Jeffrey Center, Rawlins	July 8, 2002	7-9 pm.	11

Attendance at the meetings averaged about 10 persons per meeting. While the attendance was low, public meetings concerning community services have yielded a smaller number of persons per meeting in previous years (Smith, 2002). However, the low attendance was offset by the productive discussion of relevant issues and recommendations that were received during the meetings.

The meetings opened with a brief welcome and an introduction of Tripartite Board members who attended the meeting. The purpose and scope of the meeting was also presented. Pedersen Planning Consultants then facilitated a somewhat structured discussion of community service issues, priorities, needs, and recommendations. At the close of the discussion, PPC distributed a Priority Rating Form to meeting participants that enabled them to individually rate the priorities of seven community service categories. Meeting attendees were also provided with copies of Community Need Surveys and encouraged to complete them prior to the close of the meeting. Subsequently, PPC prepared a summary of the information and recommendations gained each of the four public meetings. Summaries of the public meetings are presented in Appendix A.

#### **1.2.2.2 Community Needs Survey**

PPC developed a two-page survey to assess community service needs (Appendix B-1). Survey forms were primarily intended for users or clients of social and human services in Carbon County. However, members of the general public were also solicited to complete surveys. Surveys were direct-mailed to some 740 senior citizens and public health clients. Another 860 surveys were also made available to: 1) service providers for distribution to clients/visitors to their offices, and 2) at various public locations such as County libraries and town halls.

Approximately 244 of the 1,600 survey forms distributed were completed and returned to either the Carbon County Clerk's Office or Pedersen Planning Consultants. Consequently, the survey rate of return was approximately 15 percent. Survey results were tabulated and cross-tabulated through the use of SurveyPro, a computer software program designed for survey tabulation and evaluation. A summary of the survey results is also presented in Appendix B-2.

PPC conducted more than 20 personal interviews with representatives of selected community service providers. The Carbon County Tripartite Board recommended most of representatives that were interviewed. The interviews were made in person, as well as via telephone.

During the interviews, service providers were generally asked the following questions:

1. What kinds of services do you provide?
2. Who do you provide services to and how many people do you serve? Of these, what proportion are low-income residents?
3. Are there needs identified by the people you serve that are not being met by your agency, the distribution of information, or referral to another agency? If so, what are these unmet needs? What agencies do you generally refer clients to or coordinate your services with?
4. At your existing level of service, are you able to assist everyone who comes to you for help? If you are turning people away, for what reason?
5. Do you have any data that demonstrates what needs are not being met and/or segments of the population that are not being served.
6. Any other data, comments, or specific recommendations?

#### **1.2.2.4 Priority Ranking of Community Services**

A priority ranking process of community services was conducted with members of the Tripartite Board, as well as with participants of the public meetings, to determine the perceived importance each of seven community service categories. PPC prepared and distributed a one-page Priority Rating Form (Appendix C-1) that instructed participants to individually rate the importance of each the following seven service categories on a numerical basis:

- 1) Employment and Training (counseling, referral, training and placement)
- 2) Education (counseling, Head Start, day care, ABE, GED, child development)
- 3) Housing (non-emergency: weatherization, referrals, energy conservation)
- 4) Making Better Use of Available Resources (consumer counseling, budgeting, family planning, alternative energy use)
- 5) Emergency Assistance (last-resort services: food, commodities, clothing, shelter, health, homeless assistance, transportation assistance),
- 6) Nutrition/Food (non-emergency food, commodities, meals, nutrition, food processing, food pantries, community garden project), and
- 7) Linkages with Other Programs (outreach, information, referral & follow-up, advocacy, planning, coordination, elderly services support, in-home care, transportation, non-emergency health, recreation).

Participants were requested to indicate a numerical rating between 1 and 10. A rating of one indicated a service category that has limited importance. Conversely, a rating of 10 suggested that a service category had considerable importance.

Subsequently, individual scores were added on each sheet. A cumulative score for each service category was divided by the number of participants that attended the public meetings. PPC then ranked the scores from one to seven, with the service category accumulating the highest

score receiving the number one, or highest, priority. The same process was administered separately to the Carbon County Tripartite Board. In this manner, all seven service categories were ranked.

#### **1.2.2.5 Coordination with the Carbon County Tripartite Board**

Coordination with the Carbon County Tripartite Board was essential throughout the development of the Community Needs Assessment. PPC met on seven occasions with the Tripartite Board during the course of the project:

- An initial meeting was held to confirm the project schedule, clarify the scope of the project, and the specific tasks to be accomplished.
- A second meeting was held to update the Tripartite Board on tasks accomplished prior to the meeting, and to confirm that the project requirements were being met.
- During the third meeting, summaries of public meetings were reviewed and discussed and the progress associated with each task associated with the Community Needs Assessment was presented.
- Pedersen Planning Consultants administered the Priority Ranking process during the fourth meeting. This process enabled each member of the Board to individually rate the importance of the seven types of community services. A project update of the work completed to date was also presented.
- During the fifth meeting, preliminary recommended strategies and solutions were shared with the Tripartite Board.
- At the sixth meeting, copies of the draft Community Needs Assessment report were presented to the Tripartite Board.
- At the seventh and final meeting, PPC and the Tripartite Board reviewed changes to the Community Needs Assessment report based on comments and changes recommended by the Board after the previous meeting. Subsequently, the Board approved the report with changes to be made.

#### **1.2.3 Development of Community Service Strategies**

Based upon the conclusions derived from the evaluation of community services, PPC organized and developed a series of community service strategies that will address community service issues and unmet needs during the next three to five years. The development of the strategies considered, at least, the following:

- the six National Goals of the federal Community Service Block Grant program which include:
  - 1) Low-income people becoming more self-sufficient,



- 2) The conditions in which low-income people live are improved,
- 3) Low-income people own a stake in their community,
- 4) Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved,
- 5) Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results, and
- 6) Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.

- the seven service categories were used in the development of the Community Service Needs Survey and the Priority Ranking of community services;
- the Wyoming Results Oriented Management and Accountability system;
- five additional community service categories that emerged during the planning process. These categories included Day Care/ Nursery/Preschool/Afterschool Care, Health and Medical Services, Elderly Services, Victims and Support Groups, and Children/Youth and Family Activities.

While these five additional types of community services may not be considered for CSBG funding, the Carbon County Tripartite Board and Pedersen Planning Consultants concurred that they should be incorporated into the overall Community Needs Assessment. Otherwise, the description of community service needs and the identification of relevant strategies for addressing those needs would be incomplete.

### **1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION**

The contents of this report includes the following chapters and appendices:

Chapter 1 - Introduction (Purpose, scope, and methodology of the project)  
 Chapter 2 - Existing Community Services  
 Chapter 3 - Community Issues and Priorities  
 Chapter 4 - Recommended Community Service Strategies  
 Appendix A - Public Meeting Summaries  
 Appendix B - Community Needs Survey Summary  
 Appendix C - Priority Ranking Results  
 References

### **1.4 CONSULTATION**

Preparation of this report would not have been possible without the cooperation, time, and information provided by representatives of many public and private agency representatives. Pedersen Planning Consultants thanks and acknowledges the assistance provided by the following persons:

*American Red Cross of Wyoming, Carbon County Branch*  
 Dori Fritz, Manager, Rawlins

*Carbon County Child Development Programs*  
Pam Smith, Executive Director, Rawlins

*Carbon County Counseling Center*  
Melanie Knappenberger, Executive Director, Rawlins

*Carbon County Higher Education Center*  
Christine Kidd, Coordinator, Vocational Campus, Rawlins

*Carbon County Public Health*  
Susan Bartlett, Nursing Manager, Saratoga  
Sally Patton, Nurse, Rawlins

*Carbon County School District 1*  
Kristi Groshart, Chairman, Board of Directors, Rawlins  
Ellie McConnell, Rawlins

*Carbon County School District 2*  
Dr. Kyle Walker, Superintendent of Schools, Saratoga

*Carbon County Senior Services, Inc.*  
Bill Michie, Executive Director, Rawlins

*Carbon County Sheriff's Office*  
Randy Shinkle, Lieutenant, Rawlins  
Archie Roybal, Deputy, Rawlins

*Citizens Organized to see Violence Ended (COVE)*  
Madge Cassinat, Program Coordinator, Rawlins

*Community Resource Center*  
Theresa Pacheco, President

*Energy Basin Clinic, Hanna*  
Brenda Allred, Medical Technician

*Excel Preschool*  
Tammy Willford, Teacher/Office Manager, Saratoga

*Hanna Housing Authority*  
Marsha Beals, Director, Hanna

*Hanna Recreation Center*  
Penny Briggs, Director, Hanna

*Town of Hanna*  
Ken Worman, Mayor

*Medicine Bow Clinic*

Joanne Bennett, Staff, Medicine Bow  
Sister Marie Martin, Staff

*Memorial Hospital of Carbon County*

*Home Health Care Program and Community-Based In-Home Services*  
Barbara Clay, Supervisor, Rawlins

*Noyes Health Care Center*

Ron Taylor, Physician Assistant, Baggs

*Rawlins Clergy Association*

Reverend Father Ron and Sandy Lundgren, Rawlins

*Saratoga Alliance Church*

John Edwards, Pastor, Saratoga

*Wild Game Meat Program*

Syril Kaake, Saratoga

*Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*

Julie Wilson, Project Supervisor, Rawlins

*Wyoming Department of Family Services*

Michael Beaver, District Manager, Rawlins/Laramie  
Judy Schnelling, Benefit Specialist, Carbon County Office, Rawlins

*Wyoming Employment Resources Center*

Margaret Blodgett, Manager, Rawlins

*Wyoming Tobacco Coalition*

Theresa Pacheco, Program Coordinator, Rawlins

## **2.1 GENERAL**

There are approximately 120 community service agencies that serve Carbon County. A summary of existing community service providers is presented in Table 2-1. This summary indicates the service area and general type of services provided by each agency.

Community service providers in Carbon County provide twelve general types of community services. The primary types of community services that are provided to local residents are health and medical services; education; as well as children, youth, and family activities.

Some of the primary community service providers in each service delivery area are described in the following paragraphs.

## **2.2 COUNTY-WIDE SERVICES**

### **2.2.1 Carbon County Child Development Programs**

The Carbon County Child Development Program operates four preschool sites in Rawlins, Hanna, and Saratoga. The administrative office for the CCCD program is located in Rawlins. This agency is primarily supported by federal funds.

A total of 51 employees served its three locations. Ten of the 51 employees are administrative staff located in Rawlins. Each of the three preschool sites has teachers and aides; the number in each location varies with class size.

CCCDP incorporates Head Start, a comprehensive child development program for children three to five years of age and their families, as part of its child care and preschool services. Most of the children spend at least 6.5 hours at the preschool and are served meals. The Head Start program extends beyond academics; this program involves the whole family. For example, CCCDP staff assists families with young children in setting goals and family priorities.

A total of 174 children are currently enrolled in the Carbon County Child Development Program. Seventeen of the children pay full tuition. Twenty-five children are financially supported through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) early enrichment program. The remaining 132 are funded through Head Start.

Brief descriptions of the three preschools under the Carbon County Child Development Program are provided in the appropriate sections of this chapter.

**TABLE 2-1  
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN CARBON COUNTY  
BY SERVICE AREA AND SERVICE CATEGORY  
NOVEMBER 2002**

SERVICE AREA	Service Provider	Agency Location	Employment & Training	Education	Housing Non-Emergency	Better Use of Available Resources	Emergency Assistance	Nutrition/Food Non-emergency	Linkages With Other Programs	Daycare/Nursery/Preschool/After-school	Health & Medical Services	Elderly Services	Victims/Support Groups	Children/Youth/Family Activities
<b>COUNTY-WIDE</b>														
	Adult Children Anonymous	Rawlins							x				x	
	Alanon Family Group	Rawlins							x				x	
	Alcoholics Anonymous	Rawlins							x				x	
	American Association of Retired Persons	Rawlins		x					x			x		
	American Cancer Society	Rawlins		x					x		x		x	
	American Red Cross	Rawlins	x				x		x					
	ARK Regional Services	Rawlins	x	x		x			x					
	Boy Scouts of Carbon County	Rawlins							x					x
	C.O.V.E (Citizens Organized to see Violence Ended)	Rawlins					x		x				x	
	Carbon County Child Care Association	Rawlins		x					x	x				
	Carbon County Child Development	Rawlins							x	x				
	Carbon County Counseling Center	Rawlins		x					x				x	
	Carbon County Higher Education Center	Rawlins		x					x					
	Carbon County Historical Society	Rawlins							x					
	Carbon County Home Schoolers	Rawlins		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Library System-Main Branch-Rawlins	Rawlins		x					x					x
	Carbon County School District #1	Rawlins		x					x					
	Carbon County Senior Services-Admin. Offices	Rawlins		x		x		x	x			x		
	Carbon County Sheriff's Office	Rawlins				x	x		x				x	
	Carbon County Victim/Witness Program	Rawlins							x				x	
	Community Resource Center	Rawlins		x		x			x					
	Cooperative Extension Service-Carbon County	Rawlins		x		x			x					x
	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dist.#06	Rawlins	x						x		x			
	Employment Resources Center, Carbon County	Rawlins	x						x					
	Girl Scouts of Carbon County	Rawlins							x					x
	Memorial Hospital of Carbon County	Rawlins		x		x			x		x			
	Narcotics Anonymous	Rawlins							x				x	
	Parent Information Center South	Rawlins		x		x			x				x	
	Public Health Carbon County-Rawlins	Rawlins		x		x	x	x	x		x	x		

**TABLE 2-1**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN CARBON COUNTY**  
**BY SERVICE AREA AND SERVICE CATEGORY**  
**NOVEMBER 2002**

Service Area	Service Provider	Agency Location	Employment & Training	Education	Housing Non-Emergency	Better Use of Available Resources	Emergency Assistance	Nutrition/Food Non-emergency	Linkages With Other Programs	Daycare/Nursery/Preschool/After-school	Health & Medical Services	Elderly Services	Victims/Support Groups	Children/Youth/Family Activities
<b>COUNTY-WIDE</b>														
	Rawlins/Carbon County Chamber of Commerce	Rawlins							x					
	Salvation Army	Rawlins				x	x		x			x	x	
	South Central Wyoming Health Care & Rehab	Rawlins							x		x	x		
	United Blood Services	Rawlins									x			
	United Way of Carbon County	Rawlins				x			x					
	UW Educational Talent Search/Ed. Opp. Cent.	Rawlins		x					x					
	Western Wyoming Family Planning	Rawlins							x		x			
	Wild Game Meat Program	Saratoga					x	x	x					
	Wyoming Deaf and Blind Services	Rawlins		x					x		x			
	Wyoming Tobacco Prevention for Carbon County	Rawlins		x		x			x				x	
	Carbon County School District #2	Saratoga		x		x			x					x
<b>RAWLINS AND SINCLAIR</b>														
	Carbon County Senior Services-Rawlins	Rawlins		x		x		x	x			x		
	Carbon County Child Development Program	Rawlins							x	x				
	Carbon County Child Development Center 2	Rawlins							x	x				
	Cathy Gardens	Rawlins			x				x					
	City of Rawlins, C.A.T.S. Bus	Rawlins				x			x					
	Giggles and Grins Daycare	Rawlins							x	x				
	First United Methodist Preschool	Rawlins							x	x				
	Help to Understanding and Giving Solutions (HUGS)	Rawlins				x			x				x	
	Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)	Rawlins				x			x				x	
	Project Reach Developmental Preschool	Rawlins		x		x			x	x				
	Rawlins Animal Shelter	Rawlins							x					
	Rawlins Family Recreation Center	Rawlins		x		x			x					x
	Rawlins Police Department	Rawlins				x	x		x					
	Rawlins Youth Ministry	Rawlins				x			x					x
	St. Vincent De Paul Society	Rawlins				x	x	x	x					
	Transient Concern/Rawlins Church Clergy	Rawlins				x	x	x	x					
	WIC Office, Carbon County North	Rawlins				x		x	x					
	Carbon County Library System-Sinclair	Sinclair		x					x					x
	Sinclair Police Department	Sinclair				x	x		x					
	Sinclair Youth Group/Community Against Drugs	Sinclair				x			x					x

**TABLE 2-1**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN CARBON COUNTY**  
**BY SERVICE AREA AND SERVICE CATEGORY**  
**NOVEMBER 2002**

Service Area	Service Provider	Agency Location	Employment & Training	Education	Housing Non-Emergency	Better Use of Available Resources	Emergency Assistance	Nutrition/Food Non-emergency	Linkages With Other Programs	Daycare/Nursery/Preschool/After-school	Health & Medical Services	Elderly Services	Victims/Support Groups	Children/Youth/Family Activities
<b>PLATTE VALLEY</b>														
	Carbon County Library System-Encampment	Encampment		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Senior Services-Encampment	Encampment		x		x		x	x			x		
	Encampment Police Department	Encampment				x	x		x					
	Encampment Preschool	Encampment							x	x				
	Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Saratoga				x			x					x
	Carbon County Library System-Saratoga	Saratoga		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Senior Services-Saratoga	Saratoga		x		x		x	x			x		
	Chamber of Commerce-Saratoga-Platte Valley	Saratoga							x					
	Excel Preschool	Saratoga							x	x				
	Helping Hands Hospice	Saratoga				x	x	x	x			x		
	Platte Valley Community Food Bank	Saratoga				x	x	x	x					
	Platte Valley Medical Center	Saratoga		x		x			x		x			
	Public Health Carbon County-Saratoga	Saratoga		x		x	x	x	x		x	x		
	Saratoga Head Start/Carbon County Child Development	Saratoga		x		x			x	x				
	Saratoga Police Department	Saratoga				x	x		x					
	Throat Culture Program/Carbon County Dist. #2	Saratoga							x		x			
	Valley View Rehab & Care Center	Saratoga							x		x	x		
	WIC Office, Carbon County South	Saratoga				x		x	x					
<b>ENERGY BASIN AREA</b>														
	Carbon County Library System-Elk Mountain	Elk Mountain		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Senior Services-Elk Mountain	Elk Mountain		x		x		x	x			x		
	Elk Mountain Preschool	Elk Mountain							x	x				
	Energy Basin Clinic	Hanna				x			x		x			
	Hanna Marshall's Office	Hanna				x	x		x					
	Hanna Recreation Center	Hanna				x			x					x
	Carbon County Library System-Hanna	Hanna		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Senior Services-Hanna	Hanna		x		x		x	x			x		
	Wee Folks	Hanna				x			x	x				
	WIC Office, Carbon Cty East	Hanna				x		x						
	Carbon County Senior Services-Medicine Bow	Medicine Bow		x		x		x	x			x		
	Medicine Bow Health Center	Medicine Bow				x			x		x			

Carbon County Community Needs Assessment

December 2002

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**TABLE 2-1**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN CARBON COUNTY**  
**BY SERVICE AREA AND SERVICE CATEGORY**  
**NOVEMBER 2002**

Service Area	Service Provider	Agency Location	Employment & Training	Education	Housing Non-Emergency	Better Use of Available Resources	Emergency Assistance	Nutrition/Food Non-emergency	Linkages With Other Programs	Daycare/Nursery/Preschool/After-school	Health & Medical Services	Elderly Services	Victims/Support Groups	Children/Youth/Family Activities
<b>LITTLE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY AREA</b>														
	Baggs Police Department	Baggs				x	x		x					
	Carbon County Library System-Baggs	Baggs		x		x			x					x
	Carbon County Senior Services-Baggs	Baggs		x		x		x	x			x		
	Noyes Health Care Center	Baggs		x		x			x		x			
	Carbon County Senior Services-Dixon	Dixon		x		x		x	x		x	x		
<b>CARBON COUNTY AND STATE OF WYOMING</b>														
	Parent Information Center	Buffalo		x		x			x				x	x
	ARC of Wyoming	Casper	x	x		x			x		x		x	
	Society Security Administration	Casper				x			x			x		
	Wyoming Aids Project	Casper		x		x	x		x		x		x	
	Wyoming Independent Living Rehab. Dist #4	Casper		x		x			x		x			
	Wyoming Special Olympics	Casper				x			x				x	
	Children's Health Services	Cheyenne				x			x		x			x
	Children's Respite Program	Cheyenne				x			x		x			x
	Gov's Committee For Employment Of People With Disabilities	Cheyenne				x			x					
	Governors Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities	Cheyenne				x			x					
	Green Thumb, Inc.	Cheyenne	x			x			x			x		
	Help Me Grow-Safe Kids	Cheyenne				x			x					x
	WY Registry For Interpreters/Hearing Impaired	Cheyenne				x			x					
	P&A Individual Rights Program	Cheyenne				x			x					
	P&A Assistive Technology Program	Cheyenne				x			x					
	P&A Client Assistance Program	Cheyenne				x			x					
	P&A Developmental Disabilities Program	Cheyenne				x			x					
	P&A Individuals w/ Mental Illness Program	Cheyenne				x			x					
	Uplift	Cheyenne				x			x				x	x
	Wyoming Family Support Network Inc.	Cheyenne				x			x				x	x
	Anna Marie Weston Equipment Bank	Lander							x					
	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities	Laramie		x		x			x					
	UW Speech Language Hearing Clinic	Laramie				x			x		x			
	WYNOT	Laramie				x			x					
	Wyoming Poison Center	Omaha, Nebraska									x			



### **2.2.2 Carbon County Counseling Center**

The Carbon County Counseling Center (CCCC) is a private, non-profit agency that is based in Rawlins. CCCC is governed by a Board of Directors and administered by an executive director.

Financial support for this agency is primarily derived from funds made available by the State of Wyoming's Department of Health through its Division of Mental Health and the Division of Substance Abuse. A renewable contract is issued by the State Department of Health to CCCC on a bi-annual basis.

The Carbon County Counseling Center provides a variety of counseling services to residents in Carbon County, the communities of Wamsutter and Bairoil in neighboring Sweetwater County, as well as persons living temporarily in Carbon County.

The Carbon County Counseling Center works closely with and through the State and County court systems and other health and social service providers in Carbon County, to provide individual counseling and counseling services in the areas of marriage and family therapy, child and adolescents, domestic violence, adult survivors of sexual abuse, substance abuse after care and recovery, intensive therapy, and youth substance abuse. CCCC also provides screening for state hospital admission, temporary housing subsidies, and referrals to appropriate agencies. Programs for community education and prevention are also offered.

Approximately five professional staff counseled 684 clients in FY 2001. In addition, 51 residents were examined and treated through the CCCC's contract with Carbon County to provide emergency detention and volunteer hospitalization services.

The policy of CCCC is to never deny service to anyone needing assistance. However, CCCC does collect fees from some of its clients. Potential fees are based upon a sliding fee that considers total household income, the number of dependents in a household, and a client's ability to pay. If a client is eligible for Medicaid, no fee is charged.

### **2.2.3 Memorial Hospital of Carbon County**

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (MHCC) is a full-service, private hospital in Rawlins. It also operates the Energy Basin Clinic in Hanna.

MHCC's Home Health Care Program includes five nurses and nine CNAs who provide skilled care and in-home services throughout Carbon County for adults 18 years and older who are at risk of being placed in an institution. Their Community Based In-Home Services are offered through a grant from the State of Wyoming. This service includes non-medical type services provided by the CNAs that include personal care, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, transportation, and correspondence.

### **2.2.4 Carbon County Public Health**

The Carbon County Public Health (CCPH) agency provides medical services that are available to all residents of Carbon County. However, the main office is situated in Rawlins; one branch is located in Saratoga. Carbon County Public Health is funded entirely by Carbon County.

While the services are available on a county-wide basis, the location of CCPH offices in Rawlins and Saratoga focuses public health services primarily in two communities. However, occasional service is also provided to residents of Hanna and the Energy Basin.

### **2.2.5 WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)**

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) operates three offices in Carbon County (Table 2-2). The program is funded by the USDA Department of Health and administered by the State of Wyoming and Carbon County.

**TABLE 2-2  
WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Availability of Service</b>
Carbon County East	Energy Basin Health Clinic, Hanna	First Tuesdays in February, April, June, August, October and December
Carbon County South	Carbon County Public Health, Saratoga	First Monday of each month.
Carbon County North	WIC main office in Carbon Building, Rawlins	Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Two staff persons provided services to 90 women, 75 infants (to age one) and 200 children (to age five) in FY 2001-2002.

WIC offers a supplemental food program to eligible pregnant or nursing women, infants, and children from ages one to five. Where needed, nutrition counseling and health care referrals are made.

There is no fee for services. However, participants must be within certain income guidelines to receive assistance.

### **2.2.6 Carbon County Library System**

The main branch of the Carbon County Library System is located in the Carbon Building at Buffalo and Second Street in Rawlins. The administrative offices for the Library System are also based at this location.

There are seven branch libraries in Carbon County. These facilities are located in Baggs, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, Medicine Bow, Saratoga, and Sinclair. All of the branches are limited to being open only a few days a week and a few hours a day. Times of operations vary and are dependent upon the season.

The branch libraries at Encampment and Saratoga are situated in their own self-contained library buildings. The other libraries operate out of a room in an existing building or a trailer. All of the libraries are accessible to the handicapped.

In addition to books and other resource materials that can be borrowed by the general public, the libraries participate in a number of programs that are open to the general public. Computer use and access to the Internet is also available.

### **2.2.7 Carbon County School District One**

Carbon County School District 1 (CCSD1) includes five elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools. CCSD1 provides facilities, teachers, educational materials and other resources to students in Rawlins, Sinclair, the Little Snake River Valley, as well as the Town of Bairoil in northeast Sweetwater County.

Historically, school enrollments in the district have declined considerably since the combined oil exploration and coal mining boom of the late 1970's and early 1980's. More recently, total student enrollment in the district included 1,965 students in October 1999, 1,870 students in October 2000, and 1,922 students in October 2001.

Despite recent coal bed methane exploration activities along the Atlantic Rim, CCSD1 has not documented any substantive increases in student enrollment at Little Snake River Valley School in Baggs (Jennison, 2002).

All students of School District One are required to be immunized with DPT, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, and Hepatitis B. The Carbon County Public Health office offers free immunizations for those students who do not have a family physician.

School lunches cost \$1.75 per meal for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students and \$2.00 per meal for students grades 6-12. Free and reduced school lunches are offered to students in need of financial assistance.

Various organizations provide some students with financial assistance to cover the costs of school supplies. Generally, the school administration will identify students in the school that may need assistance. Various organizations will then provide some funds that enable the schools to cover the costs for school supplies.

### **2.2.8 Carbon County School District Two**

Carbon County School District 2 (CCSD2) comprises five elementary schools, two junior high schools, one middle school, and three high schools. The district encompasses students from Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, Medicine Bow, and Saratoga.

In October 1999, total student enrollment in the district included 887 students. Between 1999 and 2001, student enrollment declined to 770 students in October 2000 and 723 students in October 2001. However, student enrollment increased to 744 students in fall of 2002. The general decline in student enrollment again can, in part, be attributed to declines in agriculture and mining employment, population out-migration generated from a lack of job opportunities, as well as gradual decreases in fertility and average household size.

Similar to Carbon County School District 1, various organizations help low-income students in School District 2 cover the costs of school supplies.

Carbon County School District 2 administers a free and reduced lunch program through the federal government. About 276 students participated in the lunch program during the 2001-2002 school year. Approximately 36 percent of those students participating in this program were on reduced rates; the majority of the lunch program participants (64 percent) received free lunches.

A Throat Culture program is also offered to all school children. The program detects strep throat, and helps in the early testing and prevention of rheumatic fever and related illnesses.

### **2.2.9 Carbon County Higher Education Center**

The Carbon County Higher Education Center (CCHEC), based in Rawlins, administers the Western Wyoming Community College Outreach Program for Carbon County School District One and works with other agencies to provide a variety of adult education programs, vocational courses, and other educational services.

The Adult Vocational Education Program provides both adults and Rawlins High School students with vocational skills that can facilitate their securing future employment. The CCHEC Vocational School provides four general programs:

- computer technology/workforce readiness;
- certified nursing assistant program;
- hospitality; and,
- childcare vocations.

During the first two quarters of 2002, 167 students participated in these vocational programs. Almost 60 percent were students from Rawlins High School; the remaining were adult students from various parts of Carbon County.

Greater participation during the first two quarters of 2002 was in the computer technology/workforce readiness program. Approximately 87 percent of the CCHEC Vocational School students participated in this program during the first two quarters of 2002.

### **2.2.10 Carbon County Senior Services**

The corporate office of Carbon County Senior Services, Inc. (CCSSI), is located in Rawlins. This non-profit organization operates eight Senior Service Activity Centers located in Baggs, Dixon, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, and Saratoga.

The executive director of CCSSI reports to a 9-member Board of Directors, who are appointed by the Board of Carbon County Commissioners for staggered three-year terms. The executive director supervises approximately 23 staff members located throughout the County, including the eight senior center sites. Each site has its own manager and, in some cases, has some

support staff. More specific descriptions of each of the eight senior centers is provided in provided in the identification of the service providers in each Carbon County community.

The operations of CCSSI are funded primarily by Carbon County. For example, the Carbon County Commissioners budgeted \$225,815 for CCSSI operation in FY 2003. In addition, CCSSI regularly solicits and receives federal funds and grants for specific programs.

CCSI provides services to persons 60 years and over. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for its participants and help them maintain an independent lifestyle. Luncheon meals are served at each center during the weekday, as well as delivered meals to the homebound (Table 2-2). Transportation services, including a van with a wheelchair lift, are provided in Rawlins and Saratoga. Social services support and recreational activities are offered at all sites. These services include assistance with Medicare and Medicaid issues; social services referral assistance; educational resources; tax rebate program information; transportation for recreation, medical, and other services; health-related services such as blood pressure checks, flu shots and providing health care equipment; and financial assistance.

While CCCSI maintains a mailing list of approximately 930 seniors, it is difficult to determine how many actively participate in senior activities. However, the executive director of CCCSI estimates that approximately 44 percent of CCCSI clientele are seniors residing in Rawlins.

#### **2.2.11 Carbon County Sheriff**

The Carbon County Sheriff, other officers, deputies, and administrative staff provide law enforcement services throughout the unincorporated areas of Carbon County. While Police Departments have jurisdiction within each of their town limits, the Sheriff's staff will respond in all of the unincorporated areas in Carbon County.

The Sheriff's Department also provides a variety of programs to promote citizen awareness and education. These programs include the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), Home Alone, and victim's assistance programs.

#### **2.2.12 Wyoming Employment Resources Center**

The State of Wyoming Department of Employment operates the Employment Center in Rawlins. A variety of services are provided to persons seeking employment, as well as local employers. These services include:

- job referral and placement;
- job education program instructs participants concerning how to prepare resumes, how to interview; and,
- job training that includes vocational and employment counseling; as well as unemployment insurance and benefits.

Approximately 40 percent of the 3,413 persons who registered for employment during FY 2002 were eligible for unemployment insurance benefits and other employment services. About

seven percent of the 1,372 of those eligible for these benefits and services were considered low income.

Veterans, individuals with disabilities, or dislocated workers comprised another 51 percent of the eligible registrants who also qualified for additional services and benefits. Almost 10 percent of these registrants were considered low income.

In addition, six persons were placed in job training under the Workforce Investment Act. Another 65 persons were referred to the WIA's Intensive Services program and other supportive services provided by other service agencies.

The Employment Center also works with the local school districts and Carbon County employers to find jobs for high school students. The number of high school students assisted through these placements is not available.

### **2.2.13 American Red Cross**

The Rawlins headquarters of the Wyoming Chapter of the American Red Cross operates out of the National Guard Armory in Rawlins. This national organization continues to provide aid to military families, provide disaster relief, respond to emergencies, as well as offer education and training in the areas of water safety, babysitting, first aid and CPR.

One paid staff member and about 130 volunteers work with other government and private agencies to aid the needy in emergency situations. The Rawlins headquarters is stocked with cots, blankets, toiletry articles, and other necessities for use by individuals and families who are temporarily displaced due to disasters, road closures, or other emergencies. When needed for emergency response, the Rawlins headquarters, located in the former National Guard Armory, utilizes the entire building as a disaster shelter that includes a fully equipped kitchen.

On occasion, Red Cross also provides emergency housing to individuals or families by supplying three to four nights of accommodations at local hotels. The Red Cross also provides clothing, as well as money for food, to those in need of emergency housing.

In FY 2001, the American Red Cross responded to three single-family fire emergencies, provided disaster relief to 253 people, certified 2,503 people in health and safety courses, trained 1,072 youth in swimming and water safety, and conducted 53 Community Awareness presentations (Fritz, 2002).

Because of its historical response to countless emergencies, a call to the American Red Cross often represents the first point of contact for many people who are seeking help. For that reason, the American Red Cross also provides information and referral services to appropriate social service providers in Carbon County and the State of Wyoming.

### **2.2.14 Citizens Organized to see Violence Ended, Inc. (COVE)**

COVE is a private, non-profit organization that is based in Rawlins. It receives financial assistance from a variety of sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA), other federal, State, and county agencies; the United Way, and private donations. A part-time paid staff of three persons works with about 16 active volunteers and other social service agencies, such as the County Sheriff and local police departments, throughout Carbon County. All of the staff and volunteers must participate in a 40-hour training course in order to qualify for COVE work. In addition, all volunteers make a one- year commitment to share in the workload that includes taking crisis phone calls four days per month, performing administrative tasks, or other assignments.

COVE provides services to victims of domestic violence. Clients are victims of various forms of domestic violence that are generated from dating, partner and elder abuse, and sexual assault. Victims of sexual assault include adult survivors of incest, child sexual assault, non-offending parents of child victims, and adult victims of sexual assault. Confidential services are provided regardless of the victim's age, gender, race, ethnicity, or other factors. No fees are charged for any services provided.

COVE provides referral and escort services for law enforcement, medical, mental health, and legal purposes. Education and housing resources and referrals are also made available.

COVE also operates a shelter in Rawlins, which will house up to nine people for up to 21 days. Alternate housing is also provided to some clients for no more than three nights at local motels.

In June 2002, COVE had a caseload of 30 persons that comprised 12 new victims and continued contact with 18 other victims. During the winter months, the caseload of COVE increases with caseloads averaging about 50 victims per month. The clientele served by COVE ranges all income levels. Clients are primarily referred to COVE through the County Sheriff, municipal police, and fire departments.

COVE may soon open outreach offices in Baggs and Saratoga. If opened, the Baggs office would be manned by volunteers; the Saratoga office would be staffed one day a week by an employee from the Rawlins office. At the time of this report, there are no volunteers serving the Energy Basin area.

### **2.2.15 Other**

Various other agencies deliver community services on a county-wide basis. These organizations include:

- ARK Regional Services, Rawlins
- Boy and Girl Scouts of Carbon County
- Carbon County/Rawlins Chamber of Commerce, Rawlins
- Salvation Army, Rawlins
- United Blood Services, Rawlins
- United Way of Carbon County, Rawlins
- U.W. Cooperative Extension Service, Rawlins
- Wild Game Meat Program, Saratoga
- Wyoming Deaf and Blind Services, Rawlins

### **Support Groups**

Various support groups in Carbon County also provide services to persons seeking recovery, encouragement, or support. Typical examples include:

- Adult Children Anonymous, Rawlins
- Alanon Family Group, Rawlins
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Rawlins
- Carbon County Home Schoolers, Rawlins
- Carbon County Victim/Witness Program, Rawlins
- HUGS (Help to Understanding and Giving Solutions), Rawlins
- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Rawlins
- Narcotics Anonymous, Rawlins

### Educational/Information and Referral Groups

Other organizations in Carbon County provide valuable sources on information concerning aging, health, parenting, and other issues. Examples of these services include:

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Rawlins
- American Cancer Society
- Carbon County Child Care Association, Rawlins
- Community Resource Center, Rawlins
- Parent Information South, Rawlins
- Project Reach
- UW Educational Talent Search/Educational Opportunity Center
- Western Wyoming Family Planning, Rawlins
- Wyoming Tobacco Prevention for Carbon County, Rawlins

## **2.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES IN RAWLINS AND SINCLAIR**

Many of the community service providers in Rawlins are the same agencies that provide county-wide services. Those agencies that exclusively serve Rawlins and Sinclair include the municipal police departments of both communities, the Sinclair Recreation Center, the Rawlins Family Recreation Center, the Rawlins Senior Center and various daycare agencies.

A few of the community service providers in Sinclair and Rawlins are described more fully in the following paragraphs.

### **2.3.1 Carbon County Senior Services, Rawlins Site**

The Rawlins Senior Center comprises a cafeteria area, offices, a meeting room, and recreational areas, as well as a fully-equipped commercial kitchen and bakery. A 3,000 square foot warehouse and two walk-in freezers are also located onsite and used for central receiving and distribution for the eight sites in Carbon County. The building is leased from Carbon County. Carbon County covers the costs for repairs and utilities.

An average of approximately 62 meals are served daily at the Rawlins Senior Center and another 56 are home-delivered within the community.



The Rawlins Center also provides transportation to seniors on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Senior van is equipped with a wheelchair lift, and is also used to assist handicapped residents of all ages.

### **2.3.2 Preschool/Day Care Facilities**

In October 2002, 14 state-certified daycare facilities were operating in Rawlins. State certification for a 15th facility was pending. Approximately half of the certified childcare providers operate out of their homes. If operating at capacity, the 14 daycare facilities in Rawlins would accommodate up to 331 children. Select daycare facilities are described below.

Carbon County Child Development Program (CCCDP) operates two preschool locations in Rawlins on Edinburgh Street. Its facilities contain eight classrooms. Each classroom is supervised by one teacher and two aides. CCCDP also has programs in Saratoga and Hanna.

The Rawlins' programs enrolled 127 preschoolers in September 2002. Preschool from birth through five years of age are provided five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are no fees for children with developmental disabilities or delays. Tuition is charged for those children without developmental disabilities or delays. Out of the 127 children enrolled in CCCDP in Rawlins, 110 tuitions were federally-funded. The federal Headstart Program funded 92 children and the federal TANF Early Enrichment Program funded 18 children. Full tuition was paid for 17 children.

Project Reach provides early intervention services for children, including occupational and speech language therapy and special education. It also provides screening and assessments, public information and referrals for families. Project Reach can accommodate up to 67 children from birth through five years of age. Eligible children with developmental disabilities or delays are not charged tuition fees.

## **2.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE PLATTE VALLEY**

The Platte Valley area, comprises the incorporated municipalities of Saratoga, Encampment, and Riverside. Most of these agencies are situated in Saratoga.

Social service providers include the Police Departments in both the Town of Encampment and the Town of Saratoga. Police provide 24-hour law enforcement and citizen protection in their respective towns. The County Sheriff's office provides deputies that provide the same 24-hour law enforcement and citizen protection for the citizens located in the unincorporated areas of the Platte Valley.

Branches of the Carbon County Library are located in both Encampment and Saratoga. Both library branches are open only a few days of the week for limited time periods.

Other service providers in the Platte Valley are more fully described in the following paragraphs.

#### **2.4.1 Elderly Services**

Saratoga Senior Center serves an average of 29 meals to seniors at the Center; 10 additional meals are home-delivered. The Center is operated by a site manager, a bus driver, kitchen assistant, and custodial assistant. The Saratoga Senior Center provides transportation service to its clientele Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. While Carbon County covers the costs of utilities and repairs for the Center, the Town of Saratoga pays for the cost of the Center's water and wastewater utility services.

Sagebrush Senior Center serves seniors from Encampment, Riverside, and the surrounding unincorporated area. The commercial kitchen and dining room/activities area comprise a 2,900 square foot building, which is located adjacent to the Encampment Library. The Center is operated by a part-time cook and kitchen assistant. A daily average of approximately 6 meals are home-delivered. However, about 23 meals are provided to seniors coming to the Center. CCCSI leases the building from Carbon County. Repairs and utilities costs are paid by Carbon County.

Valley View Rehabilitation and Care Center in Saratoga is a private health care, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility that provides its patients with 24-hour care. The Center also provides physical, occupational and speech therapy. Available services are certified for patients that are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. An onsite administrator, social services coordinator, administrative personnel, nurses, kitchen staff, as well as facility maintenance personnel manage and operate the Center.

Six daycare facilities were operating in the Platte Valley in October 2002, according to State records. A seventh facility located in Saratoga was awaiting State certification. The Encampment Preschool is the only daycare facility in Encampment; the other five operate out of Saratoga. If all six certified facilities were operating at maximum capacity, they would accommodate a total of 100 children.

The Encampment Preschool operates a licensed day care facility from Encampment School. It receives various state and federal funds, including Title I services, for the operation of its day care facility. Two licensed teachers staff the present day care operation. There were 13 children were enrolled in the daycare facility in FY 2002. Encampment Preschool has a capacity to accommodate up to 16 children.

The Saratoga branch of the Carbon County Child Development Program (CCCDP) is managed by a certified teacher and one aide staff. This program had an enrollment of 32 preschoolers in FY 2002. Tuition for twenty of the preschoolers is funded by the Head Start program; the remaining 12 tuitions are funded by the TANF Early Enrichment Program.

Excel Preschool in Saratoga provides child care and early intervention services for children from birth through five years of age with developmental disabilities or delays. The preschool is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are no fees charged for children with developmental disabilities or delays. Tuition is charged for those children without developmental disabilities or delays. Forty-two children were enrolled in FY 2002. Twelve of these children had developmental disabilities or delays.

### **2.4.3 Medical and Health Services**

The Platte Valley Medical Center (PVMC) in Saratoga is a private, for profit, fully staffed medical center with a physician, two physician assistants, two nurse practitioners, and other support staff. Ambulance service for emergency medical assistance is also available at PVMC. This facility primarily serves residents of the Platte Valley.

A branch of Carbon County Public Health is located in Saratoga. It provides services to all of the Platte Valley, and occasionally offers services to residents of Hanna and other communities in the Energy Basin.

## **2.5 COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE ENERGY BASIN AREA**

The Energy Basin area of Carbon County comprises the incorporated municipalities of Elk Mountain, Hanna, and Medicine Bow, the unincorporated communities of Elmo, Arlington, and McFadden, as well as the adjoining unincorporated area of Carbon County. Several service providers are located in Hanna, Elk Mountain, and Medicine Bow. No social service providers are located in the unincorporated communities of Arlington, McFadden, and Elmo.

Local branch libraries of the Carbon County Library System are located in Elk Mountain, Medicine Bow, and Hanna. Each library branch has limited hours of operation.

The Hanna Town Marshall's office provides citizen protection and law enforcement in the Town of Hanna. The Carbon County Sheriff's office responds to emergency calls in Medicine Bow and Elk Mountain in the absence of law enforcement personnel in these communities.

Other selected community service providers in the Energy Basin are described more fully in the following paragraphs.

### **2.5.1 Elderly Services**

The Elk Mountain Senior Center is located within the Town of Elk Mountain's town hall. The Town of Elk Mountain owns and maintains the building and covers utility costs.

A dining hall and a semi-commercial kitchen accommodate approximately a dozen seniors who gather for lunch Monday through Friday. Another one or two meals are home-delivered.

Hanna's Senior Center consists of a commercial kitchen, a dining/recreation area, and a solarium in approximately 2,000 square feet of floor space. The building is owned and maintained by the City of Hanna, which pays the costs associated with the Center's utility services. Approximately 15 lunch meals are served to seniors coming to the Center from Monday through Friday. About four lunch meals are home-delivered.

The Medicine Bow Senior Center is located in a doublewide mobile home adjacent to the Village Square Community Center. The Center has a small residential kitchen and a small dining room. The building is owned by Carbon County and leased to CCCSI. Carbon County

also pays costs associated with utility services and facility repairs. About half of the 22 per day meals typically prepared by the Center are served to seniors coming to the Center for lunch; the remaining lunch meals are home-delivered.

### **2.5.2 Preschool/Day Care Facilities**

Elk Mountain Preschool, located at Elk Mountain Elementary School, provides day care services for children three to five years of age. These services are provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Elk Mountain Preschool is certified by the State to accommodate up to 20 children.

Wee Folks' Place is the Hanna Branch of the Carbon County Child Development Program. It provides preschool services for children from birth through age five, who reside in Hanna, Elk Mountain, and Medicine Bow. This program also provides services to children of the same age who have developmental disabilities or delays. Head Start services for preschool children from low-income families are also available. Children also receive some medical and dental care. This preschool facility provides services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. Wee Folks' Place is certified by the State to accommodate up to 40 children.

### **2.5.3 Medical and Health Services**

The Energy Basin Clinic in Hanna provides outpatient medical services to the communities of Hanna, Elk Mountain, and Medicine Bow. A physician's assistant and administrative support staff manage and operate this facility. The Clinic provides service Monday through Friday; however, the Clinic is open only during morning hours on Friday.

The Carbon County East office of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is based at the Energy Basin Clinic. This program serves pregnant women, postpartum women, and children ranging from birth through four years of age. WIC provides supplemental food to promote good health for pregnant or nursing women, infants, and children through age four. The Carbon County East office of WIC is open only on the first Wednesday of even-numbered months.

The Medicine Bow Health Center is an outpatient clinic that is located in the Town of Medicine Bow. The clinic provides services Monday through Friday from 9 am through 5 pm.

### **2.5.4 Hanna Recreation Center**

The Hanna Recreation Center, which was originally constructed by local coal mining operators, provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities to residents of Hanna and residents of other nearby communities. The Center features a 25-yard indoor swimming pool, hot tub, and sauna. Spacious indoor courts provide opportunities for basketball, volleyball and indoor tennis. Seasonal activities include baseball, softball, soccer and coed volleyball. After school latch-key programs are also organized for school-age children (United Way, 2002).

## **2.6 COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE LITTLE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY**

The Little Snake River Valley includes the incorporated municipalities of Baggs and Dixon, the unincorporated town of Savery, and surrounding unincorporated areas of Carbon County.

Social service providers include a branch of the Carbon County Library System in Baggs and the Baggs Police Department. Other service providers are described in the following paragraphs.

### **2.6.1 Elderly Services**

Roundup Senior Center in Baggs is located near the center of town and adjacent to the Noyes Public Health Clinic. An average of 10 meals are prepared daily for seniors having lunch at the Senior Center. All meals for home delivery in the Little Snake River Valley are prepared in the Roundup Center's commercial kitchen. Additional lunch meals are also prepared and home delivered to one senior in Baggs and another in Dixon. Carbon County leases the Roundup Senior Center to CCCSI and pays for the costs of utility services and facility repairs.

Dixon Senior Center serves residents in Dixon and Savery. The 2,000 square foot center includes a complete residential kitchen and spacious dining room. An average of 10 seniors per day gather at the Center to have lunch. CCCSI leases the facility from Carbon County, which pays the costs of utility services and facility repairs.

### **2.6.2 Medical and Health Services**

Outpatient medical services are provided to residents of the Little Snake River Valley by the Noyes Public Health Care Center in Baggs. The Center is managed and operated by a physician's assistant, a clinic supervisor, and administrative staff.

## **2.7 SERVICE AGENCIES FROM LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF CARBON COUNTY**

There are a number of social service agencies outside of Carbon County that provide services to residents of Carbon County (Table 2-1). Most of these service providers are located in Cheyenne, Casper, or Laramie.

Many state or federal agencies will occasionally send staff to provide needed services on a periodic basis to Rawlins and other locations in Carbon County. Other agencies are private, non-profit organizations that generally operate in the same manner. Some of the agencies provide information and referral assistance with client contacts made only by telephone.

Many of the agencies outside of Carbon County provide specialized services that are not available in Carbon County. Examples of service providers who provide these services include:

- Wyoming Institute for Disabilities;
- UW Speech Language Hearing Clinic in Laramie;
- Anna Marie Weston Equipment Bank in Lander;
- Wyoming Aids Project in Casper;
- Wyoming Registry of Interpreters for the Hearing Impaired in Cheyenne; and,
- Wyoming Poison Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

## **CHAPTER 3**

# **EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES**

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### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The following evaluation of community service needs initially identifies the varying perspectives of user/client, service providers and the general public. The needs and recommendations expressed from each of these groups were segregated for each of the seven National service categories, as well as five additional types of services that were identified by the Carbon County Tripartite Board and Pedersen Planning Consultants.

Conclusions concerning the issues and recommendations for each service category generally involved consideration of, at least, the following:

- the validity of issues through the correlation of perceived needs from user/clients, the general public, service providers, and other available information;
- the urgency of issues and recommendations
- the number of people who may be impacted by an issue or recommendation;
- potential impacts of recommendations upon the Carbon County economy;
- the potential relationship of a recommendation to other community services needs;
- the feasibility of recommendations identified by user/clients, service providers and the general public;
- insights from the Carbon County Tripartite Board; and
- national Community Service Block Grant program goals.

### **3.2 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES**

#### **3.2.1 Need for Employment Training in Carbon County**

Also: Linkages with Other Programs

##### User Clients

A review of survey comments indicated concern regarding employment and training in Carbon County. In response to the question "Are you satisfied with the level of services, 76 percent of the respondents rated them fair or poor. Most respondents, who provided a fair or poor rating of employment and training services, suggested that the unavailability of jobs was the reason for dissatisfaction. Only one respondent, who rated employment and training services as "poor", was under the federal poverty guidelines.

Respondents to the rating of employment and training services were from all four areas of Carbon County; half of the respondents to this question were from Rawlins. The source of resident dissatisfaction with these services did not appear to be focused from any one of the four geographical areas of Carbon County.

Two respondents indicated the need for training and employment for handicapped and low-functioning, developmentally disabled persons. In terms of recommendations, one respondent felt that the location of a small employment services office outside of Rawlins would be beneficial.

### General Public

No general comments regarding the need for employment and training were presented at any of the four public meetings. Training needs for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) is presented in the Emergency Assistance section of this chapter (Section 3.2.5.1). Job opportunities for youth and young adults are discussed in section 3.2.1.2.

### Service Providers

The State Employment Center in Rawlins registered 3,413 persons seeking various services from them during FY 2002 (Blodgett, 2002). Roughly 40 percent of those seeking services were eligible for unemployment insurance benefits and other employment services. Almost 13.5%, or 102 persons, were considered low income. Another 701 of the total registrants were Veterans, individuals with disabilities, or dislocated workers who qualified for additional services and benefits. Sixty-eight of the total eligible registrants, or 5 percent were considered low income. In addition, six persons were placed in job training under the Workforce Investment Act. Another 65 persons were referred to the WIA's Intensive Services program and other supportive services provided by other service agencies.

The State Employment Center recognizes that the agency makes a limited outreach to the Little Snake River area, the Energy Basin, and the Platte Valley. Agency management reports that budgetary considerations and the lack of available staff limit the Employment Center's outreach efforts to telephone calls. At the same time, the Employment Center works closely with various agencies and employers who have more direct relationships with residents in their respective communities.

One representative of a Hanna service provider reported that the State Employment Center needed better representation in the outlying areas of Carbon County. Many Hanna residents are unable to get to the Job Service in Rawlins due to lack of transportation or money. However, in some instances, the Internet has provided greater accessibility to some information.

Two Medicine Bow service providers indicated the need for more jobs to improve the economy.

### Conclusions

The Wyoming Department of Employment estimates that Carbon County's labor force in May 2002 included approximately 8,147 persons. The employed labor force included an estimated 7,796 persons. This level of employment reflects an unemployment rate of roughly 4.3 percent (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2002). Comparable data for May 2001 suggests that the rate of unemployment was slightly less in 2001



The dissatisfaction of user/clients of employment and training services is clear. However, survey comments that point to the lack of jobs as the primary reason for dissatisfaction do not necessarily indicate inadequate employment and training services. The State Employment Center can only work with employers who have job openings when they become available. As potential jobs are identified, the Employment Center can help link human resource needs with those who have required job skills and identify persons who may be qualified if some additional training can be made available.

While the lack of jobs was a primary consideration, there may be other aspects of the State Employment Center operations that generate dissatisfaction among its clients. While results of the Community Needs Survey do not suggest any other issues associated with the delivery of employment and training services, the State Employment Center should periodically re-examine its operations to determine potential areas of improvement

One aspect of some user/client dissatisfaction, which is detected from the Community Needs Survey results, relates to the accessibility to State Employment Services. There is a need for the State Employment Center to provide some periodic presence in the Little Snake River, Energy Basin, and Platte Valley. Accessibility to the State Employment Center clearly poses a greater challenge to lower income residents, or those unemployed on a seasonal or temporary basis.

The assignment of a staff person to make periodic trips to each of these areas on a scheduled basis could effectively address this issue. The same presence may also help the State Employment Center discover other job opportunities that may be available through local small businesses and ranches that are unknown to State Employment Center representatives.

The State Employment Center could likely arrange the temporary use of a local town hall, senior center, or local schools to facilitate greater outreach into the outlying areas of Carbon County. By providing public notification, an Employment Center representative could periodically register residents seeking services, as well as provide useful information about job availability, job training and other opportunities. If desired, the State Employment Center could also look into setting up some appointments by telephone in advance of the visit.

### **3.2.1.2 Job Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults**

(Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs)

#### User/Clients

Only one comment on the subject of job opportunities for youth and young adults was noted in the 244 completed Community Needs surveys. The survey respondent simply said that "...more good jobs for young people" were needed.

Comments from four other survey respondents indicated a need for more activities for youth, the need for a youth center, and a more diversified job base in the vicinity of Rawlins.

#### General Public

In the Medicine Bow public meeting, participants felt that more year-round job opportunities for youth and young adults are needed. Some meeting participants expressed that the value of year-round employment would enable young people to earn some money. Through greater

employment opportunities, young adults would also gain a greater understanding of work ethics and attitudes, as well as learn the value of working to gain income.

### Service Providers

Several service providers commented on job opportunities for youth. The Employment Center in Rawlins attempts year-round to match high school youth, i.e., students 14 years of age and older, who would like to work with potential employers. It is a program that requires the cooperation of Carbon County schools and employers. However, the State Employment Center has been unsuccessful with recruiting an adequate number of students to meet the requests of local employers.

One service provider commented that they have experienced difficulty locating employers and youth who are interested in participating in the program. Other service providers stated that when employers do hire some youth, many of them lack work ethics and attitudes.

Student exposure to job orientation and attitude skills is available via the Employment Center and the Carbon County Higher Education Center that provide periodic educational workshops. However, many youth choose not to attend.

A service provider in Hanna expressed concern for the continuation of Junior Partnership Training Act (JPTA), which funds jobs for local high school students and exposes them to the work environment.

### Conclusions

There is no question that youth exposure to an actual job experience provides greater insights to future employer expectations, job challenges, required work attitude, and potential job opportunities. While the benefits are clear, it is equally clear that the interest of youth and local employers in Carbon County is limited. For this reason, the priority for continuing programs that attempt to link job opportunities for youth and young adults with local employers is low.

At the same time, it is essential to sustain opportunities that help students become better prepared for future job experiences. In terms of job preparedness, there are, at least, two facets associated with this need:

- learning the mechanics of the employment process, e.g., how to fill out a job application, how to prepare a resume, and how to dress properly for an interview.
- establishing positive attitudes and ethics concerning work, e.g., honesty, integrity, hard work, respect for others, as well as personal responsibility and accountability.

Job preparedness programs are already available via the Carbon County Higher Education Center (CCHC) that provides instruction concerning the mechanics of the employment process. It is important these educational opportunities are sustained so that the steps toward pursuing potential job opportunities are well understood by Carbon County youth. At the same CCHC should continue to re-examine its approach to this instruction to help generate greater student interest.

The establishment of positive work attitudes and work ethics is primarily gained through example, encouragement, and experience. These are the "seeds" of personal character that help generate productive people in the economy and the community-at-large. While this issue is probably one of the more urgent priorities for youth in America, history has shown that there is considerable controversy over what values are appropriate to teach our youth, how values and ethics should be taught, and who should teach our youth. In this context, it is essential that these character traits are modeled and brought to the attention of youth by parents, employers, church leaders, educators, and other service providers. The observation of these values and an expectation of positive work attitudes and ethics from all segments of the Carbon County community will gradually instill these values into the minds and actions of Carbon County youth. Because the establishment of positive work attitudes and ethics represents a greater community responsibility, establishing government-funded programs to support this aspect of job preparedness is a low priority for community service providers.

### **3.2.2 EDUCATION**

#### **3.2.2.1 Inadequate Certified Preschool Teachers**

(Making Better Use of Available Resources, Day Care)

##### User/Client

A few of the comments received from survey respondents suggest a need for qualified teachers. The suggestion was made that more preschool or day care centers would be able to open with the availability of more qualified teachers (see Section 3.2.4.3). One person suggested that more appropriate classes or education should be provided that coincide with STAR certifications for daycare providers who must acquire continuing education credits for licensing.

##### General Public

During the Saratoga public meeting, one parent from the Platte Valley reported that the Encampment Preschool is striving to become an educational facility, rather than just a children's care center. The Preschool would like to offer higher pay to attract better qualified and certified teachers. One of its preschool teachers is working toward her Early Childhood Education degree. Otherwise, the Preschool has found it difficult to recruit qualified persons in in the Platte Valley.

Persons attending the public meeting in the Medicine Bow meeting were unsure whether or not there is a need for child care services. However, if there is a need, residents doubted that there would be a person to operate the program. Medicine Bow has no child care provider at this time.

At the Baggs meeting, residents felt that a certified childcare/preschool facility is needed in Baggs. A related need would be a person who is qualified and licensed by the State of Wyoming to manage and operate the facility.

## Service Providers

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree program is only in its second year at the University of Wyoming. Even so, some of the courses now being offered at Carbon County Higher Education Center (CCHC) have helped teachers obtain necessary credits and training (Smith, 2002).

A Saratoga health care provider also expressed the need for the continuing training and education. Day care providers are required to complete various educational courses in order to maintain their certification.

**TABLE 3-1**  
**ACTIVE STATE CERTIFIED DAYCARE PROVIDERS IN CARBON COUNTY**  
**OCTOBER 9, 2002**

Facility	Location	Certification Status	Maximum Number of Children
Elk Mountain Preschool	Elk Mtn	Certified	20
Encampment Preschool	Encampment	Certified	16
Wee Folks Place	Hanna	Certified	40
Barto Child Care	Rawlins	Certified	10
Carbon County Child Development Center	Rawlins	Certified	63
Carbon County Child Development Center #2	Rawlins	Certified	22
Peggy Colson	Rawlins	Certified	10
Cozy Corner	Rawlins	Certified	16
First United Methodist	Rawlins	Pending	0
Gayla's Child Care	Rawlins	Certified	15
Giggles and Grins	Rawlins	Certified	71
Stacey Hughes	Rawlins	Certified	15
Kid Zone, The	Rawlins	Certified	10
Little Squirrels Day Care	Rawlins	Certified	10
Project Reach	Rawlins	Certified	67
Shawna's Family Day Care	Rawlins	Certified	10
Suzie's Day Care	Rawlins	Certified	10
Tiny Tots	Rawlins	Certified	8
Pauline Davis	Saratoga	Certified	10
Excel Preschool	Saratoga	Certified	36
Gail's Day Care	Saratoga	Certified	8
Kids Care	Saratoga	Certified	10
Saratoga Head Start, CCCDC	Saratoga	Certified	20
Sunshine Kids Preschool/Daycare Home	Saratoga	Pending	0
Totals			491

Source: Children and Nutrition Services, 2002.

## **Conclusions**

The establishment of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree program at the University of Wyoming will gradually generate a supply of qualified teachers who can begin to fill the voids in the ongoing preschool system. In light of the required certification and training, it may take two to three more years before ECE graduates from the University of Wyoming will be able to begin to work in the preschool system.

The future availability of graduates with an ECE degree from the University of Wyoming is only part of the solution. These graduates will probably not be attracted to work in Wyoming for any length of time unless future salaries in Carbon County are competitive with surrounding states such as Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah. Consequently, Carbon County should begin investigating the salary ranges that will be needed for recruitment. Once this information is determined, future preschool budgets and tuitions for preschool facilities will need to reflect competitive salaries and tuition rates that will enable the recruitment and retention of qualified preschool teachers.

In the interim, the Carbon County Higher Education Center and the State Employment Center, as well as organizations like the Carbon County Child Care Association, need to begin identifying potential candidates who can be trained to become certified teachers. If necessary, the establishment and scheduling of more training programs should be made.

### **3.2.2.2 Parenting Classes**

(Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Services)

#### **User/Client**

No specific comments related to parenting classes were made by the 244 respondents to the Community Needs Survey.

#### **General Public**

During the Baggs public meeting, residents stated that CCHEC has occasionally offered parenting classes in Baggs using the Boys Town format of parenting education. Parenting classes, particularly the Boys Town format, should continue to be offered.

Rawlins residents, which included some employees of service provider agencies, reported that State Department of Public Health continues to offer parenting classes. Approximately six sessions are held per year; up to 12 people typically attend each session. The books and day care are provided free to parents. Many who attend are required to attend by court order.

A single parent support group was also tried in Rawlins. After five meetings, the group was discontinued for lack of interest. However, single parents may call a toll-free national hotline for help.

#### **Service Providers**

A service provider from the State Department of Public Health confirmed the information that was reported during the Rawlins public meeting. The objective of the parenting classes is to lessen the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The classes provide training and skills for parents of very young children through teens.

Thirty-two parents attended the classes offered in Rawlins and Saratoga in FY 2001. While the Department of Public Health could provide free parenting classes for up to 72 persons per year, the classes do not seem to draw sufficient interest from the general public. Even after parenting classes have started, there is a high incidence of disinterest and absenteeism by attendees.

### **Conclusions**

There are four tiers of education that are needed to help better prepare young adults for eventual parenting, as well as address the issues associated with child abuse and neglect.

Young adults need to be exposed to the importance and scope of parental responsibilities during the high school years. These concepts should be combined with instruction concerning the realities associated with parenting such as the cost of child support and changes in lifestyle. Existing courses that are offered in Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2 should continue to be offered at the high school level. Where such courses are unavailable, they should be established.

The second tier of education should be made available to pregnant teenage girls and teenage parents who are expecting children. Courses concerning the importance and scope of parental responsibilities should be offered. However, this information should be supplemented with other types of instruction that better enable prospective parents to better anticipate and prepare for the care of their anticipated children. The Carbon County Public Health Office should continue to provide this service.

A third tier of education should be provided to teenage parents, unwed mothers, and other young adults who already have young children. This training would involve the learning of more specific parental skills that would be taught on a group and/or individual basis. Such training would be made on a voluntary basis. Community service providers could help refer potential clients to this service that should continue to be offered by the Carbon County Public Health Office.

The fourth target group that requires instruction concerning parenting is abusive and/or neglectful parents. Local judges should be encouraged to continue their issuance of court orders that require parents who have admitted to, or convicted of, child abuse and/or neglect, to participate in parenting classes. Since attendance of existing parenting classes has been sporadic, this target group should be faced with the option of some stronger punishment unless regular and sincere participation in the parenting classes is documented.

### **3.2.2.3 Family Planning and Sex Education Awareness Programs**

Also: Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **User/Client**

Respondents to the Community Needs Survey did not include any comments related to family planning and sex education awareness.

## General Public

Residents of the Little Snake River area stated that there are no family planning services or teen sex education awareness programs being offered in Baggs. Residents suggested that Ron Taylor, Physician Assistant at Noyes Health Care Center, might be willing to organize a program concerning teen pregnancy education and prevention.

## Service Providers

Service providers that were interviewed made no comment regarding the need for family planning services or teen sex education and prevention programs. One social service provider commented that there was no need for an unwed mother's home; however, there is a need for day care to be provided for teen moms in the schools.

## **Conclusions**

Available community services provide pregnancy testing, contraceptive care, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as educating teen parents in the care of their children. However, there are apparently no current agencies serving Carbon County that promote sex education and pregnancy prevention. The perceived need for family planning and sex education awareness programs is limited.

The middle and high schools probably provide some limited sex education. However, this instruction is usually offered as part of an elective health and physical education class that the child may choose not to participate in.

Carbon County service providers, e.g., Carbon County Public Health and community medical clinics, need to work together to create such a program that could be offered in local schools, churches, and public health clinics. A second option would be to locate an existing national or state agency that already provides those kinds of programs. If a suitable program is found, selected Carbon County service providers would work together to bring appropriate programs and services to Carbon County.

### **3.2.3 HOUSING (NON-EMERGENCY)**

#### **3.2.3.1 Availability of Low-Income and Affordable Housing**

(Making Better Use of Available Resources)

##### User/Client

Thirty-two respondents to the Community Needs Survey rated their level of satisfaction with non-emergency housing. About 53 percent of these respondents reported that existing housing services were fair; 34 percent said housing services were good.

The remaining 13 percent considered housing services as poor. Reasons provided by survey respondents, who gave a poor service rating, were:

- the unavailability of Section 8 housing in Medicine Bow;
- the lack of housing for disabled persons; and,
- the lack of assisted living housing for elderly residents.

##### General Public

Residents in the Platte Valley expressed concern for the lack of low-income housing in Saratoga, Encampment, and Riverside.

Residents suggested that the lack of low-income housing may be due, in part, to the standards that are required to qualify a house as a rental home under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Section 8 housing program. Residents suggested that some realtors in the Platte Valley will identify qualified HUD Section 8 homes that are on the market. However, a greater effort is needed to locate, identify, and qualify HUD Section 8 homes.

Platte Valley residents also expressed frustration with HUD Section 8 application process in terms of its complexity and length. Many low-income applicants do not have the capability to complete an application form. Unless there is someone to help fill out the forms, they will not apply. Consequently, they will not be able to take advantage of more affordable home rentals that may be available.

Some residents also recommended the establishment of a Carbon County Housing Agency, or a County-wide coordinator position, to carry out the preceding tasks, as well as address other low-income housing issues and opportunities on a regular basis.

In contrast, the need for low-income housing in the Little Snake River area was not echoed by local residents. Residents said that the availability of manufactured homes and older trailers in Baggs provided a considerable amount of affordable housing opportunities. The lack of affordable housing in Baggs only occurs when a significant amount employment is generated by temporary increases in natural gas exploration and production. During these periods, competing housing demands will quickly reduce the availability of affordable housing.

In Medicine Bow, residents expressed that there is a growing number of purchases of vacant homes in their community by persons from outside of Medicine Bow. Many of these buyers are retirees. Consequently, there are few unoccupied houses in Medicine Bow.



The condition of unoccupied homes in the community is generally unsuitable for human habitation. Other unoccupied homes represent seasonal residents who come to the community during the spring and summer months.

Rawlins residents, who attended the Rawlins public meeting, felt that the City of Rawlins, Department of Community Development Office, had a good handle on housing needs for low to moderate-income families.

### Service Providers

In many of the interviews, service providers stated that helping clients complete application forms was not part of their job responsibilities. Nevertheless, many service providers provide such assistance when their clients were unable to understand or complete housing application forms.

One service provider would like to see a central county service provider or office that would assist low income and elderly residents with their housing needs. Such a assistance could include assistance with the completion of lengthy and complicated application forms.

The Hanna Housing Authority administers a low-income housing project that includes 21 housing units. These units include 12 two-bedroom units, 6 three-bedroom units, 2 four-bedroom units, and one three-bedroom house. About 10 of the housing units are occupied by elderly and disabled single persons. Hanna Housing Authority representatives reported that all of the housing units are occupied. Further, there is a definite need for additional low income housing, especially single room or efficiencies for the elderly and disabled.

There are grants and funding available through agencies like the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the USDA Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Loan Program, and the Wyoming Community Development Authority. The director of the Hanna Housing Authority is participating in the formation of a local committee in Hanna. The committee intends to review information concerning available housing programs and pursue potential opportunities for greater public funding.

### Conclusion

The demand for affordable and low-income housing in Carbon County is not clearly understood even though some evaluations have been made in Rawlins. A more detailed evaluation of affordable housing and low-income needs to be made in each of the 10 municipalities in Carbon County.

In order to adequately assess affordable housing needs, the collection and evaluation of, at least, the following information is required:

- review available demographic data for Carbon County and its 10 municipalities;
- evaluate factors influencing the regional economy and forecast the anticipated source, volume and location of future growth/decline in employment;

- analyze other demographic factors, e.g., influx of retirees, that may be increasing or declining the demand for housing in Carbon County;
- review and determine the type, number and cost of homes sold in Carbon County during the past 2 to 3 years;
- determine the size and cost of vacant residential properties sold;
- determine available fee simple housing inventories for each of the 10 incorporated communities by the type and size of housing and cost;
- determine the type, size, and cost of available rental housing;
- correlate household incomes with the costs associated with available fee simple housing inventories and average rental housing costs;
- survey existing residents to determine their intentions to purchase or rent another home during the next five years;
- calculate the demand for fee simple and rental housing; and,
- calculate the affordability ranges that are needed to purchase fee simple and secure rental housing in Carbon County.

An overall assessment of low-income housing needs could be administered by Carbon County in cooperation with each of the 10 municipalities. Planning-only grant funds available from Community Development Block Grant program could be used for this purpose.

Subsequently, available homes that meet the criteria for HUD Section 8 rentals should be identified for, at least, the Platte Valley and the Energy Basin. Available homes in Rawlins that meet this criteria have already been identified.

### **3.2.3.2 Availability of Housing for Assisted Living**

Also: Elderly Services, Health and Medical Services

#### Users/Clients

Seven of the 32 respondents that rated their satisfaction with non-emergency housing services identified a need for assisted-living housing. These respondents resided in Saratoga, Rawlins and Sinclair.

#### General Public

One resident of the Platte Valley expressed that there is an unmet need throughout Carbon County for assisted living housing. The demand is for seniors who are generally capable of supporting themselves if some limited medical assistance and/or home maintenance service is available. It is the lack of assist-living opportunities that force many seniors to reside in locations outside of Carbon County. Such relocations make it difficult for family and friends to visit older family members on a regular basis.

It was the consensus of residents in Medicine Bow that this community is becoming a growing retirement community. Medicine Bow residents have observed a growing number of retirees purchasing property and relocating to the community in recent years.

Rawlins residents expressed that an assisted living center and/or adult day care facility may be needed in Carbon County. However, the need for such facilities will not become clear until more specific information is obtained.

## Service Providers

A Hanna-based service provider indicated that an assisted living facility in Hanna will be a high priority need in the future; however, such as facility is not a concern at the present time.

The director of Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., believes that the development of an assisted living facility is feasible in Carbon County. Other service providers felt it would be desirable to have such a facility, but were not sure that there was adequate demand to support the development and operation of such a facility.

## Conclusions

In many parts of the United States, senior residents typically go through three phases once they become 55 or more years old. As seniors experience and make lifestyle modifications changes, their housing requirements also change.

An initial phase is entered when an individual or couple are no longer able to maintain their own home. Independent living housing, which is either purchased or leased, is needed during this phase. However, independent single family housing is typically part of a single family housing area, apartment complex, or a larger residential community that caters exclusively to the elderly. Seniors typically do not have to maintain their home or yards. These senior housing areas often have a central meeting area for senior activities, provide other indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, and are located near or adjacent to a medical clinic or other type of medical facility.

A second phase of senior living provides somewhat greater support for aging residents. Seniors typically live in assisted living housing, or congregate housing. This type of housing, which may represent an apartment complex, typically contains limited cooking facilities, a smaller living room, one bedroom, and a bathroom. Handicapped-accessible features are available to support the movement of residents within the living unit. There is a central dining room for the complex where seniors can choose to have, at least, one meal a day. Staff are available to assist seniors with their medications and doctor's

appointments, correspondence, and other miscellaneous tasks. Phase 2 housing allows overnight visitors in each of the residents' private living quarters. Assisted living housing is often made available to disabled persons who may not be elderly. Many assisted living facilities are also part of a larger complex that also includes a nursing home.

The nursing or care home is Phase 3. At this point, the elderly person is unable to care for himself and/or may not be able to make rational decisions. The nursing home typically provides a hospital-type room that may be shared with someone else. Residents have limited access to most of their personal belongings. Nurses and staff respond to all medical and personal needs of each resident.

The trend in many parts of the U.S. is to build facilities that combine Phases 2 and 3. In that way, many of the residents move with ease from assisted living quarters to nursing home because they are in familiar surroundings and they deal with many of the same staff.

Sometimes these facilities are simply divided by a doorway. Staff are also already familiar with the habits, medications, and family of elderly residents. Consequently, combined phase 2 and phase 3 facilities are often better able to assist seniors.

Based on the survey responses, there is an apparent desire on the part of some Carbon County residents for assisted living accommodations. There have been comments in the public meetings regarding the many retirees who have relocated to live in Carbon County. Demographic trends in population over the last two decades indicate that people are living longer. However, the preparation of a feasibility study is needed to determine the overall project feasibility. Such a study would evaluate potential market demand, potential site and building locations, operational labor, material and service requirements, as well as the costs associated with facility development and long-term facility operations and maintenance.

Available grant opportunities should be investigated by Carbon County, Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., or the Rawlins Community Development Office to enable completion of the feasibility study. For example, federal "planning only" grant funds, which are available from the Community Development Block Grant program, can be applied for from the Wyoming Business Council which is the administrator of the CDBG program in Wyoming.

### **3.2.3.3 Financial Assistance for Rent, Repairs & Maintenance, and Utility Costs**

(Making Better Use of Available Resources)

#### User/Client

One respondent to the Community Needs Survey indicated a need for financial assistance to help pay his rent and utilities from time to time. Another respondent indicated a need for support that could be provided via the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

## General Public

Some Medicine Bow, residents expressed their concerns for emergency assistance that some families occasionally need to help pay for household utilities. These residents also discussed the problem of some utility service providers who are not responsive to complaints or requests from residential customers who need repairs and maintenance on their utilities. These utility companies do not have offices located in Medicine Bow or nearby communities and tend to be slow to respond. Sometimes, the response of these utilities is so slow that the service required can be considered emergency status, especially during the winter months.

## Service Providers

There were no specific comments from service providers regarding assisting residents in paying their rent and/or utilities. The general consensus, however, is that poverty level residents are always in need financially. These residents typically never have enough money to meet regular living expenses from month to month. In many instances, when a family must use their money to pay for rent, no money will be available to pay for food or medicines. Some service providers are able to assist indigent families with financial assistance to help with medical needs. In that way, the limited amount of available household income can be used to make rent and utility payments.

Kinder Morgan's Energy Share program and the Wyoming Department of Family Services' Low Income Energy Assistance Program are available to provide assistance with utility needs and home weatherization. Families must complete application forms to be considered for these types of financial assistance. Required forms are available through the specific utility companies and public agencies that provide these types of assistance.

Service providers did not identify any problems associated with the response of utility companies for utility repairs.

## Conclusions

Using established guidelines, service providers in Carbon County should provide eligible families with financial assistance for food and medical needs. This will enable eligible families to expend available household income toward the payment of rent and utilities.

It is also imperative that social service providers aggressively share information regarding programs, services, and grants. This effort will enable service providers and their clients to keep abreast of opportunities that could greatly assist low income residents in meeting their monthly financial needs.

### **3.2.4 MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

There are differing community perspectives concerning the priority of making better use of available community service resources. Participants attending one of four public meetings in Carbon County ranked this general service category as the lowest of all seven service categories. In contrast, Tripartite Board members ranked it as the first priority (Appendix C-2).

This disparity in ranking from the general public and Tripartite Board may reflect a slight misunderstanding of the jargon or terms used by social service providers. It is interesting to note that “Education” was the general public’s first priority. For this reason, it is likely that both public meeting participants and Tripartite Board members actually had the same concern in mind. Both the general public and Tripartite Board ranked “Linkages with Other Programs” as second in importance.

#### **3.2.4.1 Public Awareness About Available Services**

Also Education, Linkages with Other Programs

##### User/Clients

Because of the structure of the Community Needs Survey form, respondents were not specifically asked a question about their awareness of available services in Carbon County. For that reason, only one survey respondent made mention of public awareness about available services. This respondent stated the need for more publicity about available services available.

##### General Public

Some residents in Carbon County expressed concern for the degree of understanding concerning what community services are available. These concerns were voiced at three of the four public meetings held.

Some residents at the Medicine Bow and Saratoga meetings suggested many of the “perceived” unmet needs could be addressed if the public and the service providers were better informed about what services were available. One resident at the Saratoga meeting shared that a website operated by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention could be a means of obtaining valuable information to assist Carbon County communities in battling drug and alcohol abuse.

Several suggestions were made during public meetings to improve community awareness of existing services. For example, Medicine Bow residents recommended that community workshops should be held in their community. Residents also suggested that a website could be used to showcase all of the agencies and services that are provided in Carbon County. Other residents recommended that Internet service should be made available at the computers located in each of the Senior Centers.

In Saratoga, residents pointed out that service providers should use local media to help educate the public. Periodic or issue-oriented news releases should be submitted to local newspaper and radio media on a regular basis.

During the Rawlins public meeting, similar concerns were addressed. Information and resources regarding assistance need to be made readily available. Communication and awareness among service providers needs to be improved, as well providing information to low-income families who need the services. It was the concern of some that the outreach to low-income families needs to be improved. In the past, some participants of community service programs dropped out of the programs due to the lack of follow-up and communication by service providers. The stigma of being considered "low income", or having neighbors see that they are being visited by a social service worker, was also a deterrent to their participation. Residents suggested that the "packaging" and approach to providing community services must be reviewed.

### Service Providers

One service provider, who attended the Saratoga public meeting, noted that most community service agencies in Carbon County tend to operate rather independently. Consequently, some service providers are sometimes not adequately informed about the availability of other programs in the County that may address a particular client's needs.

A Hanna service provider would like to be more aware of the different services that are available in order to better assist her clients. She would like to see a central location where low income, elderly and disabled persons could convey all of their community service needs.

Other service providers echoed the comments of public meeting attendants who noted their clients' embarrassment over being identified as a "low-income" resident. Many of those in need of community services will refuse, or not take advantage of needed services, if they are placed in an embarrassing situation.

### Conclusions

A significant challenge is associated with keeping abreast of all community services that are available in Carbon County. Users of community services, as well as service providers, tend to work within their defined scope of information until such time that there is a need to know more. That is understandable and reasonable. When circumstances or needs generate a need to know more, a readily available source of information is needed to support both user/clients and service providers. This source could be the Carbon County Community Resource Directory, as well as expanded web-site version of the same document.

The Community Resource Directory is a known resource to most, if not all, of the service providers and to many of the users and clients of community services in Carbon County.

The Community Resource Center, a coalition of service agencies in the County, produces the directory. The United Way of Carbon County plans to publish and update the Directory in the spring of 2003 (Pacheco, 2002).

Some 115 public and private agencies that service Carbon County residents are listed in the 2002 directory. Several new agency listings will be added for the 2003 Directory. Continued publication of the Directory is an essential to keep service providers, users and clients, and the general public informed of available community services. A wide distribution of the Directory is tantamount to making this information available to those who need it most. Copies of the directory should be distributed to, at least, the following:

- all social service agencies,
- libraries,
- senior centers,
- town halls,
- chambers of commerce,
- school offices,
- Memorial Hospital of Carbon County; and,
- all public health offices and private medical clinics.

If the cost of printing is a consideration, copies could also be made available to the general public for a fee.

With growing accessibility to the Internet, the development of a community services website would also be prudent. Internet access via a Carbon County community services website would be a valuable tool for Carbon County service providers. The concept of establishing a community services website is not new; it has previously been considered by the Tripartite Board, as well as the Carbon County Clerk. Information contained in the Community Resource Directory, as well as links to other community service agency websites, could be presented on the website. Carbon County social services could be searched via specific topics and programs, as well as by the names of community service agencies.

Community service users and clients would also be able to access the community services website via personal computers at schools, libraries, or the Senior Centers. The Internet can be an empowering tool to low-income residents. Use of the Internet can facilitate their obtaining information more efficiently; otherwise, users and clients of community services must wait for responses from their social service providers.

The continued distribution of a Community Resource Directory in hardcopy and digital formats will provide valuable resource tools. Both are needed to help ensure that Carbon County residents, with differing income levels, skills, perspectives and preferences, will become better informed of available service programs.

The community workshops suggested at the Medicine Bow public meeting could be another means of informing people of available services. Four workshops would be needed to provide reasonable access to all four areas of Carbon County. However, the time, energy and funds that would be expended by service providers to organize and hold community workshops would not be cost effective. A more productive approach would be to expand or incorporate information on social services into annual Health Fairs that are annually held in both Rawlins and the Platte Valley.



There are several reasons why this may be more successful than a separate “Social Services Fair” event.

- The organizational engine of the Health Fairs is already in place. For example, should Medicine Bow decide to hold a Health Fair in the Energy Basin Area, they could contact the organizers of the Rawlins or Saratoga Health Fair and gain the benefit of their knowledge in organizing and holding a Fair in the Energy Basin.
- Many of the social service agencies are already participating in the Health Fairs. Other social service agencies could easily be invited to provide information and handouts, eligibility requirements, as well as application forms.
- The Health Fairs are already a proven success; there will be many people in attendance who will benefit from receiving additional information.
- Attendance at “Social Services Fair” that is primarily intended for low-income residents. Low-income residents would be stigmatized and discouraged from attending such an event. In contrast, social service agencies who offer services to low-income people will already be a part of the Health Fair.

#### **3.2.4.2 Car Seats for Temporary Use** (Linkages with Other Programs)

##### Users/Clients

Respondents to the Community Needs Survey provided no comments relating to a need for car seats.

##### General Public

At the Saratoga public meeting, a concern was expressed that some families eligible for community services are constrained by their inability to gain transportation to service providers. Some families with very young children are offered transportation to service providers by a family friend, municipal police officer or County Sheriff’s deputy, or other volunteers. However, these potential transportation opportunities are sometimes lost due to the unavailability of an infant or toddler car seat.

##### Service Providers

A number of service providers reported that they were aware of the County Sheriff’s Office and some municipal police departments having car seats that can be loaned out on a temporary basis. This apparent need could be readily addressed by the strategic placement of car seats for that purpose in Rawlins, other selected municipal police stations, public health offices, and/or clinics within each outlying community. Donations for the purchase of car seats could be suggested to various civic and community groups throughout Carbon County.

A County Sheriff’s deputy stated that their office participates in a Child Passenger Safety Program. This program provides 12 child car seats that are available to the general public. The

car seats are rented out for an annual period for a cost of \$20 per year; \$10 are refunded upon return of the seat. All available car seats were rented out in August 2002.

## **Conclusions**

The lack of car seats, which can be used by families eligible for one or more community services, does not appear to represent a significant community service issue. No comments were received from users and clients, as well as the members of the general public, who responded to the Community Needs Survey.

At the same time, there clearly is some demand for car seats in light of the number of car seats that have already been loaned out by the County Sheriff's Office. The extent to which this demand may be evident in the outlying communities of Carbon County could be determined if the County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with all municipal police departments, informed the public of the car seat loan program. Any requests from those families who are eligible for community services could be responded to by the purchase and distribution of more car seats. The County Sheriff's Office could prepare and distribute a letter to appropriate civic and community organizations that would request their assistance in addressing these needs.

### **3.2.4.3 Childcare**

(Education, Day Care)

#### **Users/Clients**

Thirty-seven respondents to the Community Needs Survey indicated that they use some kind of day care service. The level of satisfaction was generally unfavorable. Forty-three percent of these respondents rated day services as poor, 22 percent considered services as fair. In contrast, 35 percent of these respondents rated available day care services as good.

Half of the respondents, who rated their satisfaction with day care services as poor, were from households whose incomes qualified under the federal poverty level. The reasons given for their dissatisfaction were:

- 1) There is a lack of available service or not enough day care providers;
- 2) Child care service is not available for infants; and,
- 3) Child care is not available on nights or weekends.

The same reasons for a poor level of satisfaction were also given by the other eight respondents whose incomes did not qualify under the federal poverty level.

Five additional open-ended comments received from other respondents were provided in response to questions 17 and 18. The same day care needs previously identified by low-income residents was reiterated by other day care users in Rawlins, Encampment and Saratoga.

In terms of the availability of day care, a few respondents identified a need for day care service in Hanna and the Little Snake River Valley. Two survey respondents also stated there was a need for after school care for all areas of Carbon County.

#### **General Public**

Platte Valley residents, who attended the Saratoga public meeting, expressed that available day care services are lacking in the Encampment/Riverside area. Residents reported there are only a few care providers in the Platte Valley that operate unofficially out of their homes. While the

Encampment Preschool is licensed by the State of Wyoming, parents are often unable to take advantage of the day care services from this provider because of higher costs.

Medicine Bow residents said that there are no pre-school or day care services available in their community. However, residents attending the public meeting in Medicine Bow were unsure if there is a need for these services. If there is a need, they concluded there may not be a person to operate the service.

Baggs residents felt that a licensed childcare/preschool facility is needed in Baggs. However, residents also said that no one is licensed to staff such a facility.

In the Rawlins public meeting, residents indicated that parents, who do shift work for the Wyoming State Penitentiary or other local employers, cannot find care for their children. This issue is particularly significant to single parents. In addition, day care for children two-years old and younger children is difficult to obtain. Residents expressed the need for a childcare facility that is open 24 hours to accommodate variable needs of the community.

Residents who attended the Rawlins public meeting also expressed their concerns about the discontinuation of funding for the after school program in Carbon County School District 1 schools.

### Service Providers

Representatives from Carbon County Public Health, the State Employment Center, the State Department of Family Services, as well as day care and preschool service providers, confirmed the need for additional day care facilities for preschool children. The pressing need in Rawlins residents is 24-hour child care that will enable to allow parents to work shifts or at nights. Carbon County School District 1 officials reported that the District is applying for State funds to support the re-establishment of after school care. If approved, funds would become available in November 2002. District 1 has experienced good attendance in the after school programs for children in the kindergarten through grade five levels. Participation by middle school children in after school program has been less (Groshart, 2002).

In the outlying communities of the Energy Basin, the Little Snake River area and the Platte Valley, service providers indicate that there is either no services or inadequate child care services are available. Service providers suggest that infant care seems to be somewhat important to some parents. In addition, the availability of child care services in the summer months is virtually non-existent.

CCAC Tripartite Board provides some funds to child care providers to allow them to enroll children whose families would otherwise not be able to afford child care. Many preschools and day care centers also establish "scholarship" guidelines to help needy families. For example, 157 of the 174 students participating in the Carbon County Child Development Programs in Rawlins, Saratoga, and Hanna are provided at no cost to low- income families. Day care costs are met through the use of federal/State HeadStart and TANF Early Enrichment funds.

### Conclusions

There is considerable expectation for the delivery of expanded child care services in Carbon County. The availability, scope and quality of day care services are primary issues.

Carbon County and the City of Rawlins has made significant efforts to encourage the continued operation of the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins. One aspect of these efforts has been the encouragement of increased salaries and benefits to correctional officers employed by the Wyoming Department of Corrections.

In its 2001 Correctional Officers Wage Study, the Carbon County Economic Development Corporation concluded the following about the need for day care:

*"Child care is an important issue for correctional officers who have dependent children. The households of correctional officers with children 12 years or younger are of particular concern. For these correctional officers, the availability of child care services impacts the feasibility of working various work shifts and overtime hours unless a spouse or other relative is available to watch his or her children."*

*"Shift work performed by State correctional officers often creates an employee need for child care services during nighttime hours and weekend days. Most child care operators do not provide services during these time periods. The availability of child care services during these non-traditional hours is the primary concern."*

This perspective puts into context the importance of needed day care. For some time, the Wyoming Department of Corrections has insisted that it is unable to attract an adequate number of persons who can be hired as correctional officers. If the scope of day services can address these needs more effectively, the recruitment and retention of correctional officers can be enhanced.

The economies of communities in the Energy Basin, the Little Snake River area, and the Platte Valley are also hampered by lack of child care services. In some cases, the quality of available services is diminished by the lack of certified providers that are required to have trained staff.

The inability of certified day care providers and preschool teachers is an issue that is being addressed through the establishment of an early childhood education degree program at the University of Wyoming. As students begin to graduate during the next three years, a greater availability of trained day care staff and preschool teachers will emerge. At the point, licensed day care providers must be prepared to offer competitive salaries and benefits to recruit new graduates.

### **3.2.5 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

#### **3.2.5.1 Emergency Medical Technician Assistance Also Employment and Training**

##### Users/Clients

There were 45 respondents to Community Needs Survey that rated their satisfaction with community services associated with Emergency Assistance. Roughly 62 percent rated

emergency assistance services as good. Twenty-four percent believed emergency assistance services were fair; the remaining 13 percent considered emergency assistance services as poor.

Five of the respondents, who rated emergency services as poor, provided the following reasons for their dissatisfaction:

- Service is unavailable.
- Transportation is unreliable.
- Services don't meet their needs.
- There is no ambulance or emergency medical technicians (EMT) in Medicine Bow.
- Emergency medical services are too expensive.

### General Public

Participants at the Saratoga public meeting expressed concern for the individuals who volunteer their time to provide emergency medical services. Residents recommended that the County should pay the costs associated with certification training, as well as the travel expenditures, that are presently borne by individuals who take the time to pursue the training. Residents said that the community needs to understand that emergency medical technical technicians provide a critical role in emergency medical care. The importance of these volunteers is significant in light of the distances of outlying communities to the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County in Rawlins. Residents believe that the payment of training and related travel costs would represent a means to encouraging volunteer participation and the retention of experienced emergency technical technicians

An Encampment resident also expressed concern for reliable emergency medical services that are associated with birth deliveries and care for mothers. The travel time from home to the County hospital's delivery room is not reassuring to many pregnant women in Carbon County. Residents discussed the potential availability of midwives within Carbon County. However, it was concluded that midwives may not be a viable option as midwives typically choose to operate only within close distance of reliable medical facilities in the event complications arise.

### Service Providers

Discussions with service providers provided no comments regarding available EMT services or needs associated with the training of EMT volunteers.

### Conclusions

In a medical emergency, all residents become immediately dependent upon the response and care of others. Low-income residents are especially vulnerable in these situations because of their general lack of income and resources.

The availability of trained personnel to support emergency medical services can benefit all community residents. However, in recent years, Carbon County has experienced a reduction in the number of available emergency medical technicians who are willing to support this important community service.

In order to sustain an adequate number of trained emergency medical technicians, it is important that Carbon County take opportunities to encourage those residents who are motivated to serve the general public. The suggestion of providing tuition and travel expenses for EMT trainees may have merit and should be considered. However, the recruitment and

retention of qualified EMT volunteers probably represents a more substantive issue that requires more dialogue with existing emergency medical technicians, as well as a greater understanding of the issues that influence their commitment to community service. It is also important that Carbon County investigate approaches used by other smaller communities to recruit and retain emergency medical technicians.

The availability of emergency medical technicians is an urgent priority for Carbon County. The distance from Memorial Hospital of Carbon County to most Carbon County communities gives considerable importance to the first responders of a medical emergency who are essential to help stabilize victims prior to and/or during their transport to the County hospital or other regional medical facilities.

Substantive discussions should be held with local emergency medical technicians as soon as possible. More specific recommendations should be documented and forwarded to the Carbon County Commissioners by a representative that facilitates these discussions.

### **3.2.5.2 Assistance in the Event of Disasters and Road Closures** (Linkages with Other Programs)

#### User/Client

There were no comments made by respondents to the Community Needs Survey concerning the need for assistance in the event of disasters.

#### General Public

Residents at the Medicine Bow public meeting reported that they provide assistance to many stranded motorists during the winter. The community's location at the intersection of U.S. Highway 30 and State Highway 487 make the community a logical area for motorists to stop during more severe winter conditions, e.g., white-outs. While community residents are more than willingly to offer assistance to motorists traveling through Medicine Bow, residents reported that the community has a need for approximately 20 cots and blankets that could be offered to incoming motorists.

#### Service Provider

The American Red Cross in Rawlins, which serves all of Carbon County, would like to establish Red Cross shelter agreements with several Carbon County communities outside of Rawlins. This effort would initially require the commitment of several volunteers in the area who will receive appropriate training by Red Cross. The next step would be to obtain some commitment from each participating municipality that would authorize the use of a building in each community for an emergency shelter. After an emergency shelter facility is cleaned up and organized, the Red Cross would subsequently provide food, blankets, and cots that could be distributed during emergency situations (Fritz, 2002).

### **Conclusions**

Organizations like the American Red Cross, Carbon County Emergency Management Agency and FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) have the capability of to effectively respond to emergency situations. Local and state governments also budget emergency funds

that can be used to support local emergencies, and have the potential to receive disaster relief funds from the federal government. Community responses to past winter road closures and flooding demonstrate the willingness of local residents to provide assistance to those in need.

Medicine Bow's specific need for cots and blankets and the American Red Cross's desire to set up emergency shelters in various communities in Carbon County represent effective

opportunities for increasing community preparedness. The Town of Medicine Bow and the American Red Cross should take immediate steps to establish a shelter agreement. In that manner, both parties can combine resources to provide emergency services more effectively. Similarly, the American Red Cross should immediately extend a written invitation to selected Carbon County municipalities and meet with local town councils where emergency shelters are needed.

### **3.2.5.3 Financial Assistance for Medical Needs** (Health and Medical Services)

#### User/Client

Responses to the Community Needs Survey did not indicate a specific need for financial assistance to meet medical care needs. Eleven survey respondents rated their satisfaction with health and medical services as poor. Only one of these respondents was considered poverty level.

The reasons associated with their dissatisfaction included:

- the high cost of medical services;
- the distance to drive in order to obtain medical services; and,
- services available in Carbon County were considered inadequate, or did not meet the needs of respondents.

#### General Public

Service providers attending the Saratoga public meeting stated that one of the major needs for low-income families with children is the cost of medical needs, including transportation to and from medical services. In the case of families who do not have reliable transportation, emergency funds that could pay the cost of gasoline or taxi service would make the difference in whether or not they receive needed medical care.

Rawlins residents reported there is still a great need for assistance to low-income families that can help cover medical care costs for medications, eye appointments, doctor visits, and other medical services.

Dental services are not available for low-income families who qualify for Title 19 assistance. Medicaid funds are limited. Dentists in Carbon County cannot afford to offset the high costs of dental care to treat low-income dental patients.

Medicine Bow residents felt their clinic is very helpful. While they felt it would be helpful to have x-ray and lab capability, the clinic apparently meets many of the medical needs of the

community. Financial assistance is available through Public Health for emergency medical needs.

### Service Providers

All service providers interviewed perceived that financial assistance for medical services is the most urgent need for low-income people in Carbon County.

Staff at the Noyes Clinic in Baggs felt that funds are needed to supplement the capabilities of low-income families to obtain needed treatment and/or purchase prescribed medications. The transportation of patients to the County hospital, local clinics, as well as doctors within or near Carbon County, is also a need, particularly for elderly patients.

Similarly, Medicine Bow Clinic staff felt there is a need to provide transportation for the elderly and other low income families in Medicine Bow. These residents often are unable to arrange transportation to Rawlins and Laramie to fill their medical prescriptions. In contrast, an Energy Basin Clinic representative reported that there were no needs that staff was aware of.

In separate interviews, three social service providers that deal with county-wide public and mental health services consistently reported that the highest need for elderly and low income people is assistance that help defray the cost of purchasing prescribed medications and other medical expenses such as hospital stays and transportation.

The Saratoga Public Health office, for example, assists 20-50 individuals each year via their emergency health program. The program limits assistance to \$400 per year per person, and not more than three prescriptions per year per person. Each client must cover at least \$25.00 of the cost. Funds available from their dental grant allows Public Health to assist low income persons up to \$200 per year.

The Saratoga Public Health office also identified other unmet needs that include the following:

- Assistance for medical services is needed when the individual receiving medical services may stay overnight at a hospital. Transportation is needed around the County for trips to Rawlins, as well as to Laramie, Cheyenne and Casper. For children eligible for Medicaid or Children's Special Health (CSH), CSH will pay 15 cents per mile to cover the cost of transportation; however, many will not use this service as they do not have a car.
- There are currently no dentists in Carbon County who are accepting Medicaid. Even if Medicaid provides monetary assistance, the proportion of the cost covered is so low that dentists are unwilling to participate in the program. For example, Medicaid may cover \$200 of a dental procedure that regularly costs \$2,500. It is unfair to expect dentists to cover that much on their own even when they may want to help. Many Medicaid clients are undesirable to dentists because many of these patients do not have a good track record of keeping their appointments for dental care or cleaning.



## **Conclusions**

A recent study completed by Medco Health Solutions, a Franklin, New Jersey-based pharmacy benefits manager, reports that the treatment of patients, between 65 and 79 years of age costs an average of \$944.40 per year. In contrast, the treatment of younger patients that are 19 years of age and younger is only \$84.72 per patient per year. However, the cost of medical services is increasing every year. For example, prescription drug expenditures for persons under 19 years of age rose 28 percent in 2001.

The CCAC Tripartite Board currently provides funds to specific service providers for uses, e.g., transportation costs associated with medical/emergency services. However, once the funds are disbursed to the agency, the agency must make the determination, within the limited funds they have to work with, to prioritize which emergency incidents will be covered or not. Additional funds are needed to support the provision of emergency medical services.

Carbon County Public Health receives funding from the State, as well as Carbon County, to provide financial assistance to needy families. Other agencies provide financial assistance in varying degrees, such as providing a sliding scale fee rate based on income guidelines. Most social service providers will refer their clients, or check with other appropriate agencies, to determine whether their client is able to receive additional financial assistance.

All service provider agencies need to continue to set aside funds to help support the unmet financial medical needs of those residents at, or slightly above, established poverty income levels.

### **3.2.5.4 Emergency Assistance for Homeless**

Also: Making Better Use of Available Resources, Emergency Assistance, Linkages with Other Programs

#### **User/Client**

Two respondents to the Community Service Needs Survey indicated a need for a homeless shelter and assistance for people “who are stranded (not snow related)”.

#### **General Public**

Participants in the public meeting held in Rawlins discussed the need for a shelter facility for homeless and transient persons. There is no agency that specifically addresses immediate housing needs. As a result, homeless and transient persons are often referred from agency to agency. Stagecoach Apartments in Rawlins will provide temporary housing for homeless families at no cost.

A transient care fund is now being used for more than just transient persons. The funds are also used to provide emergency housing for Carbon County residents who have been denied access to their homes. Available funding from United Way is inadequate. Costs for Carbon County residents quadrupled over the past year.

At the Saratoga public meeting, some residents expressed concern for victims of domestic violence, e.g., mothers and/or children, who are often left homeless and without funds after their separation from a parent or spouse. Emergency assistance is needed to provide them immediate food and/or housing until they can re-establish themselves and/or obtain some additional assistance available from appropriate social service agencies.

Baggs residents reported that Citizens Organized to End Violence (COVE) has 4-5 trained volunteers located in Baggs who help victims deal with various emergency situations. COVE needs some financial assistance to help pay for the cost of their operations.

The police, COVE, and local churches adequately provide food, clothing, and other emergency needs for families. There is, however, a stigma in Baggs and possibly other Carbon County communities regarding donated clothing. If a needy family gets donated clothing that's been collected in their community, the kids who wear them may be embarrassed if another kid in school recognizes that piece of clothing (Fleming, 2002).

Residents suggested that churches and other community organizations that provide used clothing should consider exchanging used clothes with community organizations in another part of Carbon County. Using this approach, the clothing received by persons in one community would not be collected from the same area. This method of used clothes distribution would help avoid embarrassment among those receiving used clothes.

### Service Providers

A volunteer service provider, who is also associated with the Rawlins Clergy Association, stated that the closure of the Shirley Parsons Community Soup Kitchen in Rawlins left a significant void in community services. Until 2000, the Soup Kitchen provided 35 to 40 meals at lunch and 5 to 15 meals at dinner. During special holidays like Christmas, this soup kitchen fed about 60 people.

A separate group, which includes some members of the Rawlins Clergy Association, is considering acquisition of the hotel located adjacent to the Wyoming Bar in Downtown Rawlins, or some other building, that can be used for a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. At the time of the interview, a new board of directors was in the process of being formed. One of the Board's first objectives will be to seek grant funds

COVE maintains one shelter facility in Rawlins. They will allow a family or group victimized by family violence, sexual assault, or physical abuse situation to stay in the shelter no longer than 21 days. While use of the shelter is sporadic, it is essential to keep the shelter available for emergency response.

It is COVE's desire to establish provide volunteers throughout Carbon County. Currently, COVE has 16 active volunteers, but no representation from Medicine Bow and Hanna. The volunteers are required to participate in a 40-hour training session. They also commit to volunteering time to support the program over a one-year time period. Volunteer activities include taking crisis telephone calls for four days out of each month, assisting with administrative duties, as well as helping address other needs of the COVE organization.

From time to time, the American Red Cross in Rawlins will also provide emergency accommodations and clothing. Three to four nights stay at a local motel is arranged for the needy individual or family. The Red Cross also conducts an annual Food Drive. Donations of money and food toward the food drive are distributed to needy families.

### Conclusions

Food and shelter are basic necessities. A community that provides for its homeless and less fortunate residents will also keep in mind the needs of all residents, regardless of their income level. A community of residents that closes its doors and looks the other way when their

neighbors are in need can expect to observe the loitering of homeless people in public places, experience increases in thefts, and other undesirable consequences.

The information and insights of service providers, participants of the public meetings, and survey respondents indicate a continuing need to provide shelter and food to people in need in Carbon County.

Churches and other organizations involved in the collection and distribution of used clothes need to coordinate efforts on a county-wide basis to help reduce potential embarrassment among those receiving used clothes from other residents of the same community.

### **3.2.6 NUTRITION/FOOD (NON-EMERGENCY)**

#### **3.2.6.1 Food for the Needy**

Also: Emergency Assistance

##### User/Client

One respondent to the Community Needs Survey indicated that there was a need for a soup kitchen.

##### General Public

Saratoga residents said that Carbon County area has adequate sources of food for the needy through private, non-profit food distribution operations in Rawlins and Saratoga. Residents believe that there appears is a good working partnership between these agencies, as well as several church and non-profit groups. Funds are needed, however, to cover the costs for the storage and processing of the meat.

At the Baggs public meeting, residents stated that there is adequate provision for food needs.

Rawlins residents expressed their concern for the closing of the Soup kitchen. Until 2000, the former Shirley Parsons Community Soup Kitchen in Rawlins used to provide about 35 to 40 meals at lunch and 5 to 15 meals at dinner. During special holidays like Christmas, this soup kitchen fed about 60 people.

##### Service Providers

A separate group, which includes some members of the Rawlins Clergy Association, is considering acquisition of the hotel located adjacent to the Wyoming Bar in Downtown Rawlins, or some other building, that can be used for a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. At the time of the interview, a new board of directors and non-profit organization was in the process of being formed. One of the Board's first objectives will be to seek grant funds to help support soup kitchen operations.

### **Conclusions**

Food distribution programs such as the soup kitchen and St. Vincent DePaul Society in Rawlins, the Wild Game Meat Program, and Platte Valley Food Pantry in Saratoga are being operated and supported by private, non-profit and/or church-related groups. These non-profit organizations provide an effective vehicle for community service. Non-profit organizations are

able to be more flexible and wide-ranging in the assistance they provide to low-income families. Programs like the federal government's food commodity program requires potential recipients to qualify under strict guidelines.

At the same time, the responsibility for charitable giving and the distribution of food to the needy represents a community responsibility that should include the participation of non-profit organizations, e.g., churches, private businesses, and some governmental agencies.

Church groups, soup kitchens, and private food giveaway programs are currently meeting the needs at the most personal level. Local businesses in Carbon County should be supporting the efforts of these organizations as they can with cash and/or donations in the way of resources, staff time, and goods.

Local government agencies should also provide resources and staff time. More importantly, local government, especially on the County level, can provide the coordination and encouragement that enables the residents of Carbon County to voluntarily take care of the needy in their respective communities.

Some cooperation between non-profit organizations, local businesses and local government is already occurring in Carbon County. As a community of caring people, these efforts should continue.

### **3.2.6.2 Senior Center Lunches**

#### User/Client

Forty-three respondents to the Community Needs Survey rated their satisfaction for non-emergency nutrition and food. Forty-seven percent of these respondents rated nutrition and food services as good. Forty-one percent rated these services as fair. The remaining 12 percent rated nutrition and food services as poor.

The reasons associated with the poor ratings were based upon complaints about the food served at the Hanna Senior Center and type of food served at the Rawlins Senior Center.

#### General Public

At the Medicine Bow public meeting, elderly residents stated that better menus are needed at the Senior Center. There were no other public comments regarding Senior Center meals that were received at any of the other public meetings.

#### Service Providers

The director of Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., is aware of some of the criticism of meals prepared at certain Senior Centers. His primary concern is the nutritional value of the meal and that seniors are being properly fed. He is also concerned with meeting the needs of certain elderly who require special needs. He and his current staff do not have the capability of adequately complying for special need diets. His agency has recently purchased a food management software that will help staff organize menus, determine caloric intake levels, and provide nutritional analysis. Using this tool, he expects that the Senior Centers can improve the nutritional value of the meals served at the Senior Centers.

### **Conclusions**

For the most part, a pre-set menu is provided for all meals served at all of the Senior Centers. While there is a consideration for the general content and nutritional value of a meal, individual tastes differ. Some differences in the way a meal is prepared will vary from one center to another.

If a “suggestion” box is made available at the Center, seniors can be asked to constructively provide their concerns or suggestions regarding meals served at each service center. Using this method, the designated cook of each Center will, hopefully, gain useful feedback that can be used to improve the level of food service.

The nutritional value of a meal, however, is another consideration. The CCSSI and staff should be commended for their efforts to improve their menus and provide healthy meals for Carbon County seniors.

### **3.2.6.3 Free and Reduced School Lunch and Breakfast Programs**

#### User/Client

No specific comments concerning lunch and breakfast programs in local schools were received from respondents to the Community Needs Survey.

#### General Public

Residents, who attended one of the four public meetings, provided no specific comments concerning lunch and breakfast programs in the schools

#### Service Providers

Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2 both receive federal funding for their school lunch programs. School district representatives report that it is a juggling act to ensure that the federal reimbursements, and the money collected from the students who purchase lunches, meet the costs to provide the meals. At the present time, needs are being met.

Representatives from both school districts also agree that there are many students who come to school without eating a breakfast. Carbon County School District 2 (CCSD2) has considered offering a breakfast program. In 2001, CCSD2 conducted an informal survey of all of the students in the district. Survey results indicated that many students come to school without eating any breakfast. The survey also asked if the student would eat a school breakfast if one was made available. The results indicated that about 35 percent of Carbon County School District 2 enrollment would eat a school breakfast if it was offered.

In view of these survey results, Carbon County School District 2 would like to offer a breakfast program. However, there are no funds available to support an expenditure of \$85,000 per year that would be needed to support such a program. Carbon County School District 2 representatives also report that there are no federal reimbursement opportunities that could be obtained to help support the program.

Despite financial constraints, Carbon County School District 2 representatives believe that the breakfast program is a program that it would like to pursue in the future. In its summary of the breakfast program results, CCSD2 stated that available research demonstrates that kids who eat

breakfast seem to have an easier time learning, behave better in school, and are more likely to be in school.

## **Conclusions**

The results of the CCSD2 survey yielded disturbing results. Parents of students in both school districts should be informed again about the findings of available nutrition research that has been correlated with student performance. Parents should be encouraged to ensure their children are properly fed in advance of their coming to school. Those families that are challenged financially to provide adequate food to their children should be encouraged to contact the school district or other community service agencies for assistance.

In this context, the feeding of children is the responsibility of parents. The community should not expect either school district to feed students. The financial condition of both school districts is already tenuous. Consideration of another burden that cannot be financially supported is not recommended.

### 3.2.7 LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

#### 3.2.7.1 Transportation Needs

##### Also Making Better Use of Available Resources

##### Users/Clients

There were many responses from, especially from the outlying areas of Carbon County, that expressed the need for transportation to obtain medications or some kind of medical service.

Many users also expressed their dissatisfaction over the lack of some community services that require them to travel to other areas of Wyoming, as well as Colorado. Survey responses revealed that residents will travel to Casper, Cheyenne, Rock Springs, and Laramie for some services. Other services are obtained as far away as Fort Collins, Denver, Craig, and Grand Junction, Colorado.

Survey respondents conceded that shopping was one of the reasons for traveling out of Carbon County. However, the main reason was to obtain medical, dental or other health-related services. Survey respondents were asked the following follow-up question:

*"If the service(s) that you use outside of Carbon County would become available in Carbon County, would you prefer to use the service in Carbon County, or would you continue traveling to the service provider(s) outside of Carbon County?"*

The majority of survey respondents said they would choose to remain and use the services in Carbon County.

##### General Public

Residents who attended the Saratoga public meeting addressed what one resident identified as one of the major needs for low income families with children: the cost of medical needs, including transportation to and from medical services. In the case of families who do not have reliable transportation, emergency funds to cover the cost of gasoline or taxi service would make the difference in whether or not they receive the needed care.

The CCAC Tripartite Board members who were present at the meeting explained that it currently provides funds to specific service providers for uses such as transportation costs for medical/emergency purposes. However, once the funds are disbursed to the agency, the agency must make the determination, within the limited funds they have to work with, to prioritize which emergency incidents will or will not be covered.

In the continuing discussion, residents discussed possible options to address this issue. Residents concluded that additional funds would be helpful to enable service agencies to better respond to transportation needs that are associated with the delivery of community services.

At the Baggs public meeting, residents felt that their health and medical services were generally adequate except for transportation to obtain necessary medical services. Several elderly persons in Baggs have no access to transportation. Residents generally concluded that a Senior Services bus would help facilitate visits to Noyes Medical Clinic, travel to the grocery store and hairdresser, transport to and from the senior centers in Dixon and Baggs, as well as trips to

Rawlins for banking and some shopping. It was envisioned that bus service could be scheduled for selected days of the week; future services could be expanded when demands signal the need for increased service.

In the Platte Valley, residents suggested that a bus service from the Platte Valley to Rawlins would be desirable to facilitate medical visits in Saratoga and Rawlins, transportation to and from senior centers in Saratoga and Encampment, as well as shopping in Rawlins. Some residents recommended that the County consider establishing an agreement with a local shuttle service operator who would be capable of providing transportation services that would include door-to-door transportation for qualified elderly and low-income residents, as well as some transportation for emergency medical services.

A resident, who had formerly lived in Nebraska, commented that she was familiar with a similar service that is provided by MidWest Transportation. This company provides emergency transportation service to the elderly and needy anywhere within the state of Nebraska. This resident wondered if the same kind of service might be made available in Carbon County.

At the Medicine Bow public meeting, concerns for transportation to available medical services was also voiced by residents. While Medicine Bow residents expressed this need, the Town of Medicine Bow recently acquired a 7-passenger community van that will be operated to help resolve many local transportation needs.

### Service Providers

When interviewed, all health care providers in Rawlins, Saratoga, Baggs, and Medicine Bow identified transportation as an unmet need for elderly and low income patients. This issue is probably the second most urgent for low-income families in Carbon County.

A health care provider disclosed that Baggs residents tend to drive the shorter distance to Craig, Colorado where medical and commercial services are in closer proximity. However, because of Title 19 requirements, funds are limited for use within the State of Wyoming. The County Clerk suggested that federal Urban Mass Transit (UMTA) funds may also be available to support provisions for transportation services; however, the receipt of any UMTA funds would require matching funds from Carbon County.

### Conclusions

Transportation is the hub of social and economic activities in most communities. Carbon County is no exception. Communities are scattered throughout Carbon County with few communities being in close proximity to other towns. In order to achieve an effective delivery of community services, public transportation is needed to enable low-income, elderly, and other residents to have greater access to available community services.

Provisions for public transportation need to be considered from the needs within each of the four regional areas of Carbon County. It would not be feasible to have one van or bus in Carbon County attempt to service all of the communities in Carbon County.



Available community transportation should be taken into account. Carbon County Senior Services Inc. has a van in operation in Rawlins and one in Saratoga. The Town of Medicine Bow has acquired a new community van. The City of Rawlins also has a bus that provides area-wide transportation system in Rawlins and Sinclair.

CCSSI is financially constrained from providing more vehicles or vehicle time on the road. Unless it receives more funding to allow more driver hours and fuel purchase, or receives a grant for the purchase and annual maintenance of another vehicle, it is unlikely that either of their vans can be used for additional services.

The City of Rawlins' C.A.T.S. bus that serves both Rawlins and Sinclair is an example of how one bus could serve the varying needs of its residents, and particularly its low income and elderly residents, for travel within, as well as to and from, Rawlins and Sinclair.

Federal funds should be sought by Carbon County to support bus transportation within each of the four subregional areas of Carbon County. Transportation within each area should be pursued differently.

In the Energy Basin, bus transportation is needed to serve the communities of Elk Mountain, Hanna, Medicine Bow, and Arlington. Transportation to existing medical clinics and senior centers in Medicine Bow, Hanna and Elk Mountain are clearly important destinations. On a weekly basis, transportation from the Energy Basin to Rawlins is also needed to provide access to other county-wide service providers and commercial shopping facilities in Rawlins.

In the Platte Valley, transportation service would ideally serve Riverside, Encampment, and Saratoga. Senior centers are located in Encampment and Saratoga. A medical clinic is situated in Saratoga. Weekly service to Rawlins is also needed to provide access to other county-wide service providers and commercial shopping facilities in Rawlins.

In the Little Snake River area, local bus transportation is needed to provide access to the Noyes Medical Clinic in Baggs, as well as senior centers in Dixon and Baggs. Weekly service to Rawlins is also desirable to provide access to other county-wide service providers, as well as commercial shopping areas.

A county-wide transportation system could emerge with the establishment of these transportation services. Federal, county and municipal funds could be brought together to establish and support each of the four area systems. With available transportation systems already operating in Rawlins and Medicine Bow, components of half of the system are already established.

A more detailed transportation plan should be completed to identify the specific requirements and costs that are required to establish or expand transportation within each subregional area, as well as weekly access to the City of Rawlins. While the system would be established primarily to afford better access for the elderly and low-income residents, the transportation system could be organized to also provide access to other Carbon County residents. Other residents could generate some revenues that would be useful to help support operational costs.

### **3.2.7.2 Support Groups/Group Homes**

### User/Client

Twenty-five survey respondents to the Community Needs Survey indicated that they used support group or group home services in Carbon County. Forty-four percent of these respondents rated their satisfaction with these services as fair. Thirty-six percent rated these services as good. The remaining 20 percent indicated that their level of satisfaction was poor.

Those respondents who provided a poor rating for support group/group home services indicated the following reasons for their dissatisfaction:

- to the non-availability of services;
- unreliable transportation; and,
- services not available at a time convenient to respondent.

### General Public

In Baggs, one resident expressed the belief that support groups need to deal with specific issues of their clients rather than operate within the scope of established government agency programs.

There was lengthy discussion of the need for support groups at the Rawlins public meeting. Participants discussed problems with youth in the area. One resident felt that a support group is needed for parents who have disabled kids, problem teens, or are attempting to address other related issues.

Another resident suggested that a group home and/or center for juveniles is needed in Carbon County. Limited counseling is presently available, but there is no support group. Teens are sent to the detention center in Casper. Recently, a grant from the Juvenile Justice Center was received that provided funds to be used in Carbon County. The group that obtained the funds intends to re-open Kids, Inc.

While there are many great services available in Carbon County, one participant felt that released Wyoming State Penitentiary prisoners are not getting needed help. For example,

a person who is just released from jail may get right back into crime because all he receives upon release is a bus ticket and a meal. He has nowhere to go and no money to secure housing.

Other residents and service providers, who attended the Rawlins public meeting, offered additional insights. The State Vocational Rehabilitation's pre-release program is available, but only a small percentage of parolees are reached. A preparatory/support group or program is needed for parolees to ensure that:

- Wyoming State Penitentiary (WSP) parolees are prepared to return to society; and,
- Parolees have the opportunity to become citizens who can work and support themselves and their families.

To a limited extent, help for the about-to-be released inmates is available while they are still within the WSP system. A quarter-way or half-way house for released inmates could provide immediate housing. Such a facility could also provide counseling and other assistance to help parolees prepare themselves for getting out into the public. A partnership between WSP, the community, police enforcement, and other service providers should be established to cooperatively work with parolees who are in the community.

### Service Providers

No additional comments were provided in interviews with service providers regarding support groups.

### Conclusions

Comments from the general public and community service providers indicate significant need for more support groups and group homes in Carbon County.

Support groups are generally groups of people with a common concern or problem that meet to provide each other to gain support and acquire useful information. Individuals that participate in support groups do so voluntarily, or are required to participate by court-order. Support groups recommended by residents and service providers include a Parents for Troubled Youth Support Group and a Wyoming State Penitentiary Parolee Support Group.

Group homes, halfway houses, or quarterway houses are usually homes within a residential setting that house a group of people who are adjusting to the “outside world” after being released from prison or a rehabilitation program. Residents recommended a Center for Juveniles, as well as a halfway or quarterway house for released WSP prisoners. For many of the juveniles and WSP ex-prisoners involved, these types of facilities are essential to enable their successful transition into the communities they are released into.

A support group for parents of troubled youth can easily be established. An initial meeting should be organized by a parent, or a social service worker who works with troubled youth. Invitations should be sent to parents of juveniles, or youth who are or have been convicted of a crime in the community. The names and addresses of potential participants may be available through the Carbon County District Clerk of Court or the State Circuit Court. Schools may also be solicited to assist in providing names and contact information for parents who may be interested in seeking the kind of help a support group could provide. Should names and addresses of parents be withheld due to privacy laws, it is possible that the State court system and/or school would be willing to make the mailings directly. A representative of Department of Family Services may need to attend the first meeting to assist parents in organizing a support group. However, participating parents can then develop their own set of rules and guidelines for the operation and management of the support group. Appropriate community service providers could attend, but would participate only at the invitation of the participating parents. Their purpose in attending would be to provide resources and information. The success and longevity of the support group would depend on the interest and commitment of the parents.

The establishment of a Juvenile Center in Rawlins is more involved. Currently, the State Department of Family Services operates the Wyoming Boys School in Worland and the

Wyoming Girls School in Sheridan. Both of these facilities are rehabilitative/correctional facilities for court-ordered juveniles. In Carbon County, four boys and two girls were sent to respective Boys and Girls Schools in FY 2002. Another five youth were sent to the Detention Center in Casper. It is likely that those numbers are not sufficient to warrant a Juvenile Center serving Carbon County. Nevertheless, the determination of need should be evaluated by the Juvenile Court System and the Rawlins office of the Department of Family Services.

A crisis center and group home for young people, similar to what was provided by KIDS, Inc. (Kids in Distressed Situations) prior to its closure, is being considered in Rawlins. At the time of this report, the promoter of this project was in the process of forming a board of directors and planned to apply for non-profit status. Although this project is several years away from completion, Carbon County can indicate its support for the program and provide valuable assistance in the way of information, coordination, and other resources when they are needed.

The recommendations made for the formation of a Wyoming State Penitentiary (WSP) Parolee Support Group, as well as a halfway or quarterway house for released WSP prisoners, merits consideration. The implementation of the Support Group and the establishment of a halfway house would require considerable coordination between WSP, the court system, parole board, the State Employment Center, the State Department of Family Services, the Carbon County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Rawlins. Appropriate WSP representatives should organize a series of meetings with these agencies to develop a specific strategy for the organization of a Parolee Support Group, as well as a halfway or quarter-way house. Once a strategy is determined, the responsibility for implementation of specific tasks within a scheduled timetable should be established.

### ***3.2.7.3 Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs***

#### User/Client

A couple of general responses to the Community Needs Survey indicated concerns for alcohol and drug abuse.

#### General Public

In Baggs, a resident reported that in spite of the local DARE program, drug use by middle to high school youth has risen during the past ten years. The users/pushers are 20 to 30 year olds. While there are adequate numbers of police officers in the community, few arrests are being made. Another person attending the Baggs meeting spoke of a Restorative Justice Program in Sheridan that brings together judges, police officers, and social service workers to help work with juvenile delinquents.

#### Service Provider

A service provider with the Carbon County Counseling Center in Rawlins stated that alcohol remains the drug of choice in Wyoming. The biggest change that has occurred in the past 12 or more years is that the alcohol use is now impacting much younger kids. In some cases, the DARE program makes kids interested in the drugs they are taught about in that program and

may lead them to try it. The use of cocaine and meth-amphetamine has also increased in Carbon County.

A Carbon County Public Health service provider felt that a Teen Al Anon support group is needed to help teens stay “clean” after they have gone through treatment for substance abuse or alcohol abuse.

A Wyoming Tobacco Coalition representative shared information from survey results that were obtained as part of a 2001 Prevention Needs Assessment for Carbon County School District 1. The assessment and related survey was prepared for the State of Wyoming Department of Health Substance Abuse Division. The report surveyed School District 1 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. It compared the results for School District 1 with statewide results for the uses of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, as well as for antisocial behavior. Some of the results were alarming.

For example, 66 percent of School District 1 students in grade 8 indicated that they have used alcohol compared to 50 percent of eighth graders statewide. Almost 40 percent of eighth graders in SD1 used alcohol within 30 days prior to their taking the survey, Statewide, the results showed alcohol use by only 20 percent of eighth grade students.

Binge drinking for School District 1 eighth graders was at 40 percent while the statewide average was less than 15percent. School District 1 eighth graders also compared higher than the statewide average in four antisocial behavior categories:

- 1) getting suspended from school, 17 percent vs. 8 percent statewide;
- 2) attacking to harm someone, 18 percent vs. 14 percent statewide;
- 3) carrying a handgun, 12 percent vs. 5 percent statewide; and
- 4) being drunk or high at school, 13 percent vs. 10 percent statewide.

The comparisons for Grades 10 and 12 are slightly better as there was a smaller difference between School District 1 students and students statewide. Grade 6 students are even closer to the statewide average except for being suspended from school. For this anti-behavior category, 12 percent of School District 1 students had previously been suspended compared to 5 percent of grade 6 students statewide.

The report also presents risk factor charts and protective factor charts. Instructions are also provided to assist schools and communities in determining how to use the information presented in the Prevention Needs Assessment to make decisions about the type of prevention programs that would be most beneficial for their youth.

The service provider also made three suggestions for the prevention of drug and alcohol use in Carbon County.

- Carbon County communities should offer more alternatives to our youth, especially in the outlying areas.
- The whole community should be involved in youth activities.
- A more comprehensive prevention program needs to be developed and implemented if we are to combat alcohol and drug abuse by our youth.

## **Conclusion**

The concern and attention over Wyoming youth's alcohol and substance abuse are evidenced by legislation being considered in our State's Capitol. The Daily Times reported in its August 27, 2002 issue that a bill was being drafted that would allow counties to add a one cent tax on alcohol for a set period of time. The tax earnings would be used to fund alcohol treatment programs.

Another bill being considered in the Legislature begins by stating *"House Bill 59 recognizes the use of tobacco and abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a serious problem in Wyoming and urges state and local government entities, the judiciary, private sector, business community, civic organizations, and the faith community to become partners for engaging the work ahead."*

Then there is the Wyoming Substance Abuse Division's 2001 Prevention Needs Assessment for Carbon County School District 1 that shows SD1 surpassing statewide averages in a number of critical areas. This assessment brings alcohol and drug abuse issues closer to home, and provides ample evidence to demonstrate that Carbon County needs to pay more attention to the pervasiveness of alcohol and drug use by our youth.

Although Baggs was the only community to voice its concern about alcohol and drug abuse among its youth, these problems are occurring in all of Carbon County.

The Prevention Needs Assessment also takes into account what it calls the "risk factors" that help determine factors that constitute a student's likelihood to be a user/abuser. For example, high risk factors for sixth graders in Carbon County School District 1 include:

- 1) transition and mobility (family moves);
- 2) family conflict;
- 3) family history of antisocial behavior; and,
- 4) sensation seeking.

In contrast, the Assessment also surveyed students' "protective profile" which identified factors that could prevent a student's use or abuse of alcohol and drugs. The 2001 survey of Carbon County School District 1 revealed that eighth graders did not meet statewide averages in all areas including:

- 1) opportunities for pro-social involvement in the community, in school, and in the student's family;
- 2) rewards for prosocial involvement in the community, in the school, and in the student's family;
- 3) family attachment;
- 4) religiosity;
- 5) social skills; and,
- 6) belief in moral order.

The Prevention Needs Assessment provides a useful tool for Carbon County schools, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, and parents. This information can help determine actions that can be used to steer Carbon County youth in directions away from drugs and alcohol.

For over 16 years, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program has played a major role in schools across the United States to educate our youth about drug use. In recent years, however, its effectiveness to prevent drug use has been questioned. More recently, the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Surgeon General have publicly issued reports documenting DARE's failure (Drug Policy Alliance, 2002). With these and other reports, communities, schools, and law enforcement in Carbon County needs to critically review the effectiveness of the DARE program in Carbon County schools. At the very least, School Districts 1 and 2, parents of school children, and local law enforcement agencies need to look at other more recent programs on drug and alcohol prevention that are being used in other schools and communities, and compare the results of those programs and costs with the results derived from the DARE program.

The positive role that DARE has filled in promoting a familiarity between law enforcement officers and children cannot be disregarded. However, the availability of new drug prevention programs calls for a re-examination of the DARE program and the review of other educational opportunities.

### 3.2.8 ELDERLY SERVICES

In 2000, there were 2,607 senior citizens (age 60 and over) in Carbon County that accounted for almost 17 percent of the Carbon County population (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2002). The number of senior citizens in Carbon County can be expected to grow as the life expectancy rate in the United States continues its steady growth trend that began in 1900. Further, local real estate brokers a growing interest among retirees to seek part or full-time residency in Carbon County.

<b>LIFE EXPECTANCY IN THE UNITED STATES</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Life Expectancy (age in years)</b>
1900	47.3
1950	68.2
2000	76.9

Source: US Dept of Health and Human Services, 2002.

Many American communities are witnessing similar growth trends and are encouraging private investments that seek to provide housing and services for this population sector.

Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., as well as each of its senior center facilities, has a continuing struggle to balance needs with available funds. While a substantial amount of funds are granted to CCSSI by Carbon County each year, the administrative, operation and maintenance costs are usually always greater than the County grant can cover. Approximately \$225,000 has been allotted to CCSSI and its eight senior centers for fiscal year 2003. CCSSI

regularly pursues other sources of income to offset these costs. Some of the senior centers hold fundraisers in order to gain additional income.

A recent Saratoga Sun news article reported some of the fundraising activities being undertaken by the Saratoga and Encampment Senior Centers. These include a land raffle, recruiting non-participating seniors to eat lunch at the Centers, renting out Center facilities for private parties, a bazaar, and a raffle for a handmade quilt (Saratoga Sun, 2002).

Respondents to the Community Needs Survey indicated that users/clients of community services in Carbon County make the greatest use of elderly services. Ninety respondents indicated they had used services for the elderly during the past year. Seventy-one percent of these respondents rated their satisfaction with elderly services as good. Twenty-one percent of the respondents considered the delivery of elderly services as fair. The remaining eight percent considered that elderly services provided were poor.



### **3.2.8.1 Adult Day Care and Home Health Care**

Also: Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages With Other Programs

#### User/Client

The majority of open-ended comments provided by survey respondents dealt with the need for home or adult care. Many comments also indicated the need for financial assistance to cover medical costs, including glasses and dental work, as well as transportation needs associated with doctor office visits and the purchase of medications. Other comments stated the need for reasonably-priced housekeeping and persons to assist with house chores and shopping. A few comments suggested the need for more activities for seniors that included various physical activities and the proposed use of an enclosed year-round swimming pool. Four comments identified the need for a larger senior center for Medicine Bow. Two comments indicated the need for a Home Alone Program in the outlying communities of Carbon County.

#### General Public

Platte Valley residents shared that there are no provisions for the care of elderly seniors who still live in their own home or reside in the home of a family relative. Many of them are home alone during the day. Service providers attending the meeting felt that there was not enough available information to determine how much of a need there is in Carbon County for adult day care. Should this issue be pursued, public health officials, home health agencies, as well as local churches, may be able to provide some useful information. The municipal police and County Sheriff's Office Home Alone Program will probably provide the most definitive data on, at least, the number of seniors who are left alone during the day in private residences.

In Medicine Bow, residents stated that seniors need continued home health care rather than a care home facility. The Home Health Care services provided through the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (MHCC) is good, but seniors also need someone who can assist them with small household chores that do not fall under the category of medical services. Seniors also need some home maintenance work to be done around their homes, e.g., minor repairs and home winterization. These needs are compounded when the senior is incapacitated, or has difficulty moving around his or her home.

Rawlins residents felt that home care for the elderly is needed. They also felt that the Home Health Care Program through MHCC should be expanded.

#### Service Providers

The Carbon County Sheriff's office provided information about their Home Alone Program. An administrative staff member from the Sheriff's office currently makes 35 telephone calls each morning to persons who are home bound. If there is no response to the phone call, a municipal police officer or County Sheriff's deputy is dispatched to the person's home.

The majority of the calls are to residents in Rawlins; a few of the calls are made to residents in Baggs. All of the Home Alone clients are Social Security income recipients that have variable income levels.

Staff at the Medicine Bow Clinic sees a need for housekeeping services for the elderly.

Home health care services are no longer being provided by the Saratoga Public Health office. The reasons given for discontinuation of these services was that the Public Health Office was not being reimbursed for services. Further, staff had to do a considerable amount of paperwork.

The Memorial Hospital of Carbon County provides two outreach programs that assist elderly at home. Their Home Health Care Program requires skilled nurses who assist elderly and handicapped clients with their health and medical needs, such as taking blood and administering blood pressure tests and medication. They serve approximately 18 to 35 individuals in Carbon County; roughly 30 to 40 percent of these patients are low income.

A state grant also allows MHCC to administer a community-based in-home service program which provides personal care services such as light housekeeping and grocery shopping. This program currently serves 112 clients; 50 to 60 percent of those served are low- income residents.

MHCC's supervisor would like to see the Home Health agency obtain a Hospice license through the State Department of Health. Hospice is a program successfully operated in other communities in Wyoming and the United States. Its success is largely due to the reliance on individuals who provide voluntary service. However, the license is complicated and not easily obtained.

### **Conclusions**

There is a fine line between enabling independent living for the elderly and recognizing the point where they must have more attentive care. That line can only be defined by family members and health care providers who serve the elderly on a day-to-day basis. If the goal is to allow a person to stay in his/her home for as long as possible, then family members need to make the adjustments and sacrifices to assist loved ones achieve that goal.

There are several facets of elderly services that are especially relevant to Carbon County:

- 1) health care for the elderly at home;
- 2) adult day care at home and outside of the home; and,
- 3) personal assistance for elderly residents who continue to maintain their own private home or apartment.

Health care at home allows sick or injured persons to convalesce in the comfort of their own home. Skilled nurses visit the home to provide the professional care they need. Only the Home Health Care program under Memorial Hospital of Carbon County is currently providing this service. The Home Health Care program provides service to elderly patients, or anyone 18 years or older who would otherwise be placed in a hospital or nursing home. Care is provided regardless whether the patient is living alone, or with family members.

The Home Alone Program allows elderly to remain in their own homes. However, since there is only one call made during each day, the check on the elderly person is limited, at best. Many things could occur between the time a Sheriff's Office call has been made and the time when

another family member arrives home. If the elderly person lives alone, the time of the next call could be 24-hours or more.

For some elderly persons, adult day care is provided in the home in the form of a hired nursing assistant. Another alternative are adult day care centers where elderly persons still living at home are dropped off at care facilities to spend several hours during the day. In some facilities, even disabled or handicapped elderly are brought to the site. An adult day care center would feed the elderly person one to two meals a day, ensure that his medication is taken, and have various activities that the elderly person could choose to participate in. Some facilities combine an assisted living facility with adult day care.

The third aspect is that of providing personal assistance for elderly residents who continue to maintain their own private home or apartment. Even when the maintenance of a home becomes difficult, many seniors will choose to live in their homes. To allow them to do this, provisions must be made for volunteers or hired persons to help maintain the home. The assistance provided would be in the form of housekeeping, taking out the trash, home maintenance tasks such as cutting grass, bringing in wood, etc.

All of these alternatives would be desirable to have in a community with an elderly population. They would provide lifestyle choices for an elderly person whose life is changing, sometimes rapidly, from year to year.

### **3.2.8.2 Senior Center Facilities and Activities**

#### **Also Making Better Use of Available Resources**

##### User/Client

Several respondents to the Community Needs Survey identified a need for a larger senior center at Medicine Bow. A couple of comments were also received that requested more activities for the elderly.

##### General Public

A major concern expressed by residents of Medicine Bow was the need for a larger senior center. The current center operates out of a trailer home that has been renovated into a senior center. Approximately 8 to 16 seniors eat at the senior center; another 14-20 persons have meals delivered to their homes. On a busy day, the 16 seniors and the two staff members are "touching elbows" in the crowded trailer. Approximately 60 seniors currently live in Medicine Bow. One resident suspected that the small size of the senior center was contributing to some seniors choosing not to participate in activities.

Residents stated that an abandoned bank building on the west side of town (west of State Highway 487) could be renovated and used for a Senior Center. The building is for sale and the Town of Medicine Bow is considering applying for CDBG funds to help purchase and improve that building for use as a new senior center.

Baggs residents said that there was no good reason why there were two separate senior centers were located in the Little Snake River area. Residents recommended that the Dixon and Baggs senior center operations should be consolidated.

## Service Providers

All of the Carbon County Senior Service Center (CCSSI) facilities are more than 20 years old. Six of the sites are owned by Carbon County and then leased to CCSSI; however, the Elk Mountain and Hanna Senior Centers are each owned by their respective municipalities. Senior Center facilities range in size from 1,500 square feet for the Medicine Bow Senior Center and up to 3,000 square feet for the senior center in Rawlins.

At the Medicine Bow Senior Center, approximately 8 to 16 seniors eat at the senior center and 14-20 meals are home-delivered. There are, however, approximately 60 seniors who currently live in Medicine Bow. The small size of the senior center may be contributing to the other 25 to 30 seniors choosing not to congregate at the Center for meals.

## **Conclusions**

Because of the age of all of the Senior Centers, Carbon County and CCSSI need to make an inventory of existing Senior Center facilities and develop plans for future facility repairs, improvements, and possible renovations. This planning study should document facility information such as: 1) the age of existing facilities, 2) the size of each facility, 3) building capacity, 4) condition of each building, 5) the condition of electrical and plumbing fixtures, 6) activities or services provided at each location, and 7) anticipated projected costs for facility repairs, improvements, and possible renovations. This study should also include a forecast of the potential number of seniors that will potentially make use of each Senior Center and participate in anticipated activities. CCSSI should also coordinate its efforts closely with municipal town councils and public works representatives to identify potential building locations. The development of a conceptual site plan and floor plan for each Senior Center would greatly facilitate the preparation of future Carbon County budgets and the determination of future facilities needs and priorities.

Because of concerns regarding the size of the Medicine Bow Senior Center, steps should be taken to evaluate alternative sites such as the former bank building and other vacant structures in the community.

At the time of this report, the Carbon County Commissioners have committed to obtaining larger facilities or funding to house the Baggs Senior Center and the Medicine Bow Senior Center by the 2003 fiscal year.

### **3.2.9 CHILDREN/YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

#### User/Client

Thirty-two respondents to the Community Needs Survey chose to rate their satisfaction of community services associated with children/youth and family activities. Approximately 59 percent of these respondents considered the delivery of these services as fair. Twenty-five percent rated children/youth and family activity services as good. The remaining 16 percent felt that the delivery of these services was poor.

Survey respondents recommended more activities for youth and young families, as well as the need for a recreation center. Two respondents noted that the staff at Department of Family Services were unfriendly or unhelpful.

## General Public

Baggs residents stated that the Little Snake River School keeps the gymnasium open all summer, as well as for Wednesday night volleyball. Residents expressed that these recreational opportunities are good for many of the youth in Baggs. At the same time, 35 percent of youth do not participate in athletics or FFA and do not like organized-type activities. There is a need to provide activities in safe locations for them to hang out. Residents felt that a community center for Baggs would resolve a lot of needs. Different organizations could share in the cost and maintenance of the facility. The recommended community center could house various uses such as a day care center, a youth center, community events and activities, and meeting facilities.

## Service Providers

The Platte Valley Community Readiness Team (CRT) includes a Board of Directors made up of clergy, a public health representative and various other social service organization. It was organized to enable their ability to apply for a State Incentive Grant and a Tobacco Free Grant from the State Department of Health Substance Abuse Division and the State Department of Education. These grants would help this new organization establish a Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in the Platte Valley. Their purpose of the program would be to intervene with activities and mentoring, and provide a safe place for at-risk youth under 18 years of age.

In October 2002, the Platte Valley CRT received a State Incentive Grant of \$75,000 a year for three years (\$225,000) to establish a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program. Funding will pay for staff, operating expenses, and mentor training. Targeted communities include Encampment, Saratoga, Hanna, and Medicine Bow (Patton, 2002).

The Hanna Recreation Center provides the residents of Hanna with more than just a center for recreation. In addition to the swimming pool, gym, and ball fields, the center includes a library and a Technology Center complete with four computers that have the same programs that are available at school. As a result, students can go online to do their homework. Staff at the center coordinate a myriad of recreational activities and events that include Hanna's King Coal Days. Low income memberships are available, and are paid based on household size and income. In the past year, nine of its roughly 60 memberships were acquired at the low income level. The Center operates with funds paid by the Town of Hanna, as revenues from membership fees and other income fall far short of covering expenses.

## Conclusions

Activities for youth and families are vital to every community. Community/recreational centers such as the ones available at Hanna and Rawlins provide a great community service and establish a congregational setting for residents in the community. The services and activities they provide in their respective communities are an example that other communities in Carbon County can follow.

Studies have also shown that alternative activities in a community play a role in decreasing the use of alcohol and drugs by youth and children.

#### **4.1 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

##### **4.1.1 Goal: Help reduce local unemployment and increase the capacity of local labor force to meet labor demands in Carbon County**

*Objective 1:* Take a more pro-active approach that links potential employers, potential jobs, persons in the labor force, and job training

*Strategy:* Meet regularly with representatives of local industry and local employers to identify anticipated labor demands and related job skills. When necessary revise operating procedures and policies to improve job training opportunities and coordination with private employers.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* State Employment Center and Carbon County Higher Education Center

*Schedule for Completion:* Bi-annually, beginning in 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Education, Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

*Objective 2:* Make a greater outreach to the Little Snake River Valley, Energy Basin, the Platte Valley, and other outlying areas of Carbon County

*Strategy:* Make scheduled, periodic trips to outlying communities of Carbon County. Meet with local small business representatives and community leaders to identify potential job opportunities. Make available State Employment Center services to unemployed persons who are seeking jobs and/or training.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* State Employment Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003 and beyond

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

##### **4.1.2 Goal: Increase the capacity of young adults in Carbon County to pursue and assume new job opportunities in Carbon County.**

*Objective:* Increase job preparedness and the job skills of young adults in Carbon County.

*Strategy:* Monitor the amount of employer and student participation, as well as the number and types of jobs secured via the existing Workforce Incentive Program administered by the State Employment Center. Sustain the ongoing job preparedness programs of the State Employment Center and the CCHEC Vocational School.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* State Employment Center, Carbon County Higher Education Center, Carbon County schools, local business partners

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003 and beyond

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Education, Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

## **4.2 EDUCATION**

### **4.2.1 Goal: Satisfy Child Care Providers Need for Qualified Preschool Teachers**

*Objective:* Increase the availability of qualified preschool teachers

*Strategy 1:* Investigate the salary ranges that will be needed to recruit ECE graduates from the University of Wyoming. Once determined, incorporate competitive salaries into future preschool budgets. When necessary, modify tuition rates to help offset higher operating costs. Subsequently, recruit University of Wyoming graduates with ECE degree.

Identify other potential candidates, who are not ECE graduates, that can be further trained to become certified teachers. If necessary, establish and schedule more child care training programs.

*Strategy 2:* Support Carbon County Higher Education Center, and the University of Wyoming's programs to certify and train qualified preschool teachers. Solicit the cooperation of high school educators who may know of young people who may be interested in that field of work.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Child Care Association, School Districts 1 and 2, Carbon County Higher Education Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

### **4.2.2 Goal: Decrease the incidence of child abuse and neglect**

*Objective 1:* Educate high school youth about the responsibilities of parenting

*Strategy:* Continue to provide appropriate parenting classes as part of the curriculum in all Carbon County high schools.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2

*Schedule for Completion:* Ongoing

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

*Objective 2:* Educate pregnant teenagers and prospective parents, unwed mothers, and young parents already with children, about the responsibilities of parenting

*Strategy:* Continue to offer periodic voluntary parenting classes through Carbon County Department of Health. Supplement instruction with individual training, if needed.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health, Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2

*Schedule for Completion:* Ongoing

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

*Objective 3:* Educate abusive and neglectful parents about the responsibilities of parenting

*Strategy:* Continue to provide parenting classes to parents who have been ordered by the courts to receive this training because of abuse and neglect that has already been committed. Coordinate and follow-up with courts so that parents are held accountable for attending and completing classes.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health, Carbon County District Court, State Circuit Court

*Schedule for Completion:* Ongoing

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

#### **4.2.3 Goal: Decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies**

*Objective:* Provide voluntary sex education and pregnancy prevention classes

*Strategy:* Create or locate a successful voluntary program that will teach youth about the health risks of practicing sex before marriage and the consequences of sexual activity. Incorporate one-on-one mentoring within the selected program. Work with local health care providers and school districts to promote participation of at-risk teens.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health, Noyes Health Care Center, Medicine Bow Clinic, Energy Basin Clinic, Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2, local churches

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

### **4.3 HOUSING (NON-EMERGENCY)**

#### **4.3.1 Goal: Enable low-income families to locate affordable housing in Carbon County**

*Objective:* Determine housing availability and identify eligible housing for low-income families

*Strategy:* Carbon County officials, working in cooperation with representatives of each of the ten municipalities, will secure a planning only grant available from the Community Development Block Grant program to evaluate affordable housing and low-income housing needs throughout Carbon County. The scope of work should, in part, include the identification of HUD Section 8 rentals. Housing needs should be evaluated in the context of recent residential property sales, available housing inventories, market prices for rental and fee simple housing, potential opportunities for the development of affordable housing and other relevant information.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Commissioners/Tripartite Board, ten municipalities of Carbon County, Hanna Housing Authority, Rawlins Office of Community Development, Carbon County Department of Planning and Economic Development

*Schedule for Completion:* 2006

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs



#### **4.3.2 Goal: Increase the availability of elderly housing options in Carbon County**

*Objective:* Investigate potential private and public development opportunities for independent living housing, assisted living facilities, as well as nursing/care home facilities in Carbon County

*Strategy:* Conduct a feasibility study for the development of independent living housing, assisted living facilities, as well as nursing/care home facilities. This study would evaluate potential market demand, potential site and building locations, operational labor, material and service requirements, as well as the costs associated with facility development and long-term facility operations and maintenance for each type of elderly housing. Investigate available grant opportunities that could enable the funding of such a study, e.g., planning only grant through the Community Development Block Grant program administered by the Wyoming Business Council.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., Rawlins Community Development Office, Carbon County Department of Planning and Economic Development, private sector

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Elderly Services, Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

#### **4.3.3 Goal: Keep low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless**

*Objective:* Provide assistance to low-income people that enable them to pay the costs associated with house rental, utility, as well as home repairs and maintenance.

*Strategy:* Aggressively pursue and promote programs, such as LIEAP and NOWCAP, that assist low-income families pay the cost of their utility services and other home repairs and maintenance.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., Rawlins Community Development Office, local private utility companies

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

### **4.4 MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

#### **4.4.1 Goal: Create a better public understanding of available community services**

*Objective 1 :* Inform the general public of available community services.

*Strategy 1:* Develop a website, e.g., Carboncommunityservices.com, for all community services in Carbon County. Incorporate and expand available information from the existing Community Resource Directory. The intent of this project would be to expand the accessibility of relevant community service information to the general public via personal computers at home, computers provided at service provider offices, County libraries and schools, as well as senior centers.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board and Community Resource Center (coordinating agencies), service providers in Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

*Strategy 2:* Publish and widely distribute copies of the Community Resource Directory. Ensure its distribution to all social service agencies, libraries, senior centers, town

halls, chambers of commerce, school offices, all public health and medical clinics, and the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board and Community Resource Center (coordinating agencies), all service providers in Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* Ongoing

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

*Strategy 3:* Coordinate with Health Fair organizers to include booths showcasing other social services in Carbon County at future Health Fairs. In Little Snake River Valley and Energy Basin area, where no Health Fair is held, Town Councils and social service providers should solicit and encourage organizers to hold a Health Fair in their area, then actively support and promote the event.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Health Fair organizers, Carbon County Tripartite Board and Community Resource Center (coordinating agencies), all service providers in Carbon County, Town Councils

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

*Objective 2:* Provide low-income residents with a better public understanding of available community services.

*Strategy 1:* Prepare informative flyers and/or brochures, and distribute them to selected public locations, e.g., grocery stores, laundromats and Post Offices, as well as appropriate service providers throughout Carbon County.

*Strategy 2:* Prepare and distribute news releases and public service announcements that describe the scope of available community services and relevant points of contact to appropriate media outlets within Carbon County.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board and Community Resource Center (coordinating agencies), all service providers in Carbon County.

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004 through 2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

*Objective 3:* Use the media as an avenue for distributing information to the general public.

*Strategy:* Service providers should develop periodic or issue-oriented news releases for publication in local newspapers and agency newsletters, and for announcement on local radio stations. A letter encouraging Carbon County social service providers to utilize the media should be sent along with a contact list of Carbon County media and a sample news release format.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

**4.4.2 Goal: Enable low-income families with babies and/or toddlers to use available transportation to get to medical and related services**

*Objective:* Make available infant and toddler car seats in convenient locations throughout Carbon County

*Strategy:* The Carbon County Sheriff's Office should continue and expand its child car seat loan program to low-income families. Municipal police departments should work cooperatively with the Sheriff's office and local health care providers to determine the demand for car seats in their towns. A request for financial assistance for the purchase of child car seats should be sent to appropriate civic and community organizations.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Sheriff's Office, municipal police departments, medical clinics

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

**4.4.3 Goal: Provide adequate child care services in Carbon County**

*Objective:* Expand the availability, scope, and quality of day care services

*Strategy 1:* Encourage and subsidize certified day care providers that provide child care services during night-time hours and weekend days.

*Strategy 2:* Encourage and subsidize more day care service providers to serve low-income families

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Child Care Association, Department of Family Services

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* None

**4.4.4 Goal: Decrease the stigma of embarrassment shared by low-income families in accepting free or reduced cost of community services.**

*Objective:* Enable low-income families to accept with dignity and pursue the services that are their right to receive

*Strategy 1:* Fill the vacant low-income representative position on the Carbon County Tripartite Board.

*Strategy 2:* Hold joint meetings of selected community service agencies to discuss ways and means of "marketing" services to low-income families. Encourage and involve low-income residents in these discussions.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* Strategy 1 – 2003, Strategy 2 - 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

**4.4.5 Goal: Enable low-income residents to receive dental services**

*Objective:* Provide greater incentives to local dentists to provide dental services to low-income families and individuals

*Strategy:* Subsidize a greater proportion of dental costs to low-income families who would otherwise not receive needed dental work. Locate and secure funding to provide greater compensation to local dentists. Channel secured funds through Carbon County Public Health, which will identify needy clients, determine eligibility, and determine the amount of financial assistance. Subsequently Carbon County Public Health will distribute appropriate amount of funds to local dentists.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health  
*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008  
*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

#### **4.5 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

##### **4.5.1 Goal: Enable low-income families to receive urgent medical services**

*Objective:* Provide funds that increase the availability of medical services to meet urgent medical needs of low-income families and individuals

*Strategy:* Continue to assist Carbon County Public Health and other service providers for costs associated with low-income needs for emergency purposes, such as medications, visits to doctors and dentists (transportation and uncovered cost of medical bills). Determine a level of assistance to these agencies that would meet these costs.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Public Health

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

##### **4.5.2 Goal: Meet the need for Emergency Medical Technicians in outlying communities**

*Objective:* Enable EMTs and potential EMTs to continue to provide emergency services in their communities

*Strategy:* Discuss and identify issues that influence the commitment of volunteer EMTs.

Investigate approaches used by other communities to recruit and retain EMTs.

Determine level of support and assistance required by EMTs.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Public Health, Municipalities in Outlying Communities of Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

##### **4.5.3 Goal: Provide assistance to residents and visitors in the event of disasters or road closures**

*Objective:* Increase community preparedness to respond to disasters and road closures

*Strategy:* Establish emergency shelters and organize and train volunteers in selected locations of Carbon County. Furnish shelters with cots, blankets, and other emergency supplies.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* American Red Cross, select municipalities of Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004-2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs

#### **4.5.4 Goal: Provide safe places for the homeless**

*Objective:* Develop safe homes and shelters for homeless

*Strategy:* Identify, apply for, and secure a State of federal grant that will provide funds to improve or develop safe homes and shelters in several different locations in Carbon County

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Local churches, COVE, Rawlins Dept. of Community Development, other interested municipalities in Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004-2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.5.5 Goal: Reduce the potential embarrassment of low-income people wearing used clothing**

*Objective:* Establish a county-wide clothing exchange program

*Strategy:* Link organizations that are involved in the collection and distribution of used clothing. Encourage their sharing and exchange of used clothing to communities in different locations of the County. The circulation of an initial letter from the Carbon County Tripartite Board would represent the starting point for this project.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, local churches and agencies that collect and distribute used clothing.

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

### **4.6 NUTRITION/FOOD (NON-EMERGENCY)**

#### **4.6.1 Goal: Provide safe haven and meals to homeless and low-income persons**

*Objective:* Establish a community shelter/soup kitchen in Rawlins

*Strategy:* Support efforts to establish and operate a new soup kitchen in conjunction with a proposed community shelter in Rawlins.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Rawlins Clergy Association, Downtown Development Authority, City of Rawlins

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.6.2 Goal: Provide food to low-income people**

*Objective 1:* Support existing food distribution programs

*Strategy:* Meet with representatives of St. Vincent DePaul Society, Platte Valley Food Bank, Wild Game Meat Program, and other food distribution programs. Identify needs that will sustain ongoing volunteer operations. Provide financial support. Donate materials, equipment, floor/storage space, and other resources. Carbon County will assist with coordination and encourage local communities to care for the needy within their own communities.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Local churches, private business, Carbon County, and local government.

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Objective 2:* Support the establishment of a higher food stamp allotment for low-income people

*Strategy:* Research proposed federal legislation concerning food stamp allotments.

Contact U.S. Congressional representatives and state legislators to encourage the potential increase in the Food Stamp Allotment to qualified low-income families.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Department of Family Services, Carbon County Tripartite Board, Community Resource Center agencies

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.6.3 Goal: Improved taste and nutrition of senior center meals**

*Objective:* Provide nutritious meals and special diet meals to seniors

*Strategy:* Support CCSSI's efforts to provide more nutritious meals, as well as the special diet needs of its clients. Provide monetary support that may be required to for food purchases that may be necessary to meet special dietary requirements. Provide and encourage use of suggestion boxes at each of the Senior Centers. Periodically review and assess comments, and modify meal plans when appropriate.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, CCSSI, impacted senior centers

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources:

### **4.7 LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS**

#### **4.7.1 Goal: More low-income people have transportation to needed services throughout Carbon County**

*Objective:* Provide transportation that meets the needs of low-income and elderly residents throughout Carbon County

*Strategy:* Develop a transportation plan for all of Carbon County. The plan would include: 1) an assessment of each community's available resources, e.g., community bus, seniors van, private transportation services, and 2) an examination and determination of feasible options, routes and schedule for providing transportation, including door-to-door service, to low-income and elderly persons for doctor/dentist visits, grocery shopping, medication purchases, visits to other social service providers, and other emergency needs. Pursue and secure possible state and federal grants, e.g., UMTA, to fund the study, as well as the purchase of possible transportation equipment.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, all ten municipalities

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.7.2 Goal: Enable Wyoming State Penitentiary (WSP) parolees and families to adjust to community**

*Objective:* Provide an organized system to assist WSP parolees and families

*Strategy:* Organize and hold meetings with representatives of WSP, the court system, parole board, the State Employment Center, the State Department of Family Services, the

Carbon County Sheriff's office, the City of Rawlins, and select Police Departments, should be held to develop a specific strategy for the organization of a Parolee Support Group, as well as to discuss the potential establishment of a halfway or quarterway house. Once a strategy is determined, the responsibilities for implementation of specific tasks should be assigned, with scheduled time commitments attached to each task.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, WSP, Employment Center, Sheriff's and selected Police Departments

*Schedule for Completion:* 2006

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.7.3 Goal: Provide services in Carbon County for Carbon County juveniles and their families**

*Objective:* Develop a youth crisis center and group home for juveniles in Carbon County

*Strategy:* Support efforts to develop a youth crisis center and group home for juveniles in Rawlins. Provide information and other resources when they are needed.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Wyoming Department of Family Services

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.7.4 Goal: Enable parents to have a supportive environment to share concerns and suggested resolutions regarding troubled teens**

*Objective:* Establish a support group for parents of troubled teens

*Strategy:* Organize a meeting of interested parents and social service workers. Invitations should be sent to parents of juveniles and youth who are or have been convicted of crimes in the community, as well as other parents of youths at risk. Participating parents will subsequently develop their own set of rules and guidelines for the operation and management of the support group.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Initial meeting – Department of Family Services representative, Development of parent contact list – Carbon County District Clerk of Court, State Circuit Court, Carbon County high schools.

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.7.5 Goal: Reduction in use of alcohol and drugs by our children and youth**

*Objective 1:* Establish a comprehensive prevention program to battle against alcohol and drug addiction of our youth

*Strategy:* Obtain and review conclusions of the Prevention Needs Assessment reports for both Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2. Determine specific projects that can be undertaken which would develop protection factors (as defined in the report) for youth in Carbon County.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2, Wyoming Tobacco Coalition (WYTUP)

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Objective 2:* Increase the understanding of dangers and consequences associated with drug and alcohol use.

*Strategy:* Research and evaluate current drug and alcohol education programs, which attempt to reduce, intervene, and prevent the use of drugs and alcohol. Select a program for use in Carbon County schools and its communities. The selected program will address new findings concerning the methods of teaching about drug and alcohol use and abuse that are described and supported by the U. S. Surgeon General, the National Academy of Sciences, and other reputable organizations.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County School Districts 1 and 2, Wyoming Tobacco Coalition (WYTUP), Carbon County Sheriff's Office

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004-2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

## **4.8 ELDERLY SERVICES**

### **4.8.1 Goal: Expand available home health care for elderly**

*Objective:* Re-establish the Home Health Care Program in the Platte Valley

*Strategy:* Provide funding or other necessary resources to enable the Carbon County Public Health office to re-establish its home health care in the Platte Valley.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

### **4.8.2 Goal: Enable elderly to live at home longer**

*Objective 1:* Provide personal care to elderly in their homes

*Strategy:* Seek and organize reliable volunteers in each community who can assist elderly residents. Provide home cleaning, grocery shopping, and other tasks. Encourage churches and other organizations to voluntarily provide services to meet these services for an established period of time.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Public Health, churches, senior centers

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Objective 2:* Provide home repairs and maintenance to elderly

*Strategy:* Develop a resource list of electricians, building contractors, and handymen who are willing to provide home repairs and maintenance services to selected elderly residents for free or at a significantly reduced cost. Provide this list to CCSSI who, with the appropriate senior center, will screen and prioritize requests from needy senior citizens and coordinate requests to the appropriate contractor.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Develop list – Community Resource Center, Coordinate – CCSSI.

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

### **4.8.3 Goal: Enable uninterrupted senior center activities**

*Objective 1:* Provide safe and adequate senior center facilities

*Strategy 1:* Conduct a planning study that inventories existing senior center facilities and determines needs for future facility repairs, improvements, and possible renovations.



This planning study should document facility information such as: 1) the age of existing facilities, 2) the size of each facility, 3) building capacity, 4) condition of each building, 5) the condition of electrical and plumbing fixtures, 6) activities or services provided at each location, 7) recommended facility repairs, improvements, and possible renovations, and 8) anticipated order-of-magnitude costs. This study should also include a forecast of the potential number of seniors that will potentially make use of each Senior Center and participate in anticipated activities. The development of a conceptual site plan and floor plan for each Senior Center will be incorporated into the study to facilitate the preparation of future Carbon County budgets and the identification of future facilities needs and priorities.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., municipalities of Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2006

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Strategy 2:* Evaluate the former bank building and other vacant structures in the Town of Medicine Bow for the establishment of a new, larger senior center.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Carbon County Senior Services, Inc., municipalities of Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Objective 2:* Continue to provide elderly activities

*Strategy:* Support ongoing and periodic fundraising activities conducted by CCSSI, as well as individual senior centers. Funds raised will be used to supplement elderly activities and services that cannot be covered by meal revenues or funds received through local, state, or federal grants.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, municipalities of Carbon County

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

## **4.9 CHILDREN/YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

### **4.9.1 Goal: Provide alternative activities for children and families**

*Objective:* Develop programs that provide alternatives to existing leisure time activities, organized sports, and community programs for Carbon County youth.

*Strategy:* Establish youth centers and other alternative activities for children, youth and families in existing or new facilities in Baggs, Medicine Bow, Saratoga, and Rawlins. Support and assist community organizations that are already carrying out ongoing programs or pursuing this objective. Such organizations include the Sinclair Youth Center, Hanna Recreation Center, Rawlins Youth Ministry, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Saratoga, and Flame's Teen Center in Rawlins.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Local churches, service clubs

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

### **4.9.2 Goal: Provide community-based options that help address youth issues**

*Objective 1:* Provide youth with greater accessibility to trained and qualified adults/counselors

*Strategy:* Establish community-based mentoring programs for youth that serve all areas of Carbon County. Provide trained and qualified adults/counselors who are readily available to discuss issues with youth privately or in small forums. Support the establishment of programs such as the Platte Valley Readiness Team's Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Platte Valley Readiness Team, municipal governments, local churches

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Objective 2:* Establish a Teen Crisis Line in Carbon County

*Strategy 1:* Study existing teen crisis line programs that are successfully operating in other parts of Wyoming or the U.S. Develop a program that could work in Carbon County. Seek funds to establish the program and provide necessary training for paid workers and/or volunteers, floor space, telecommunications equipment, and other necessary supplies.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2005

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Emergency Assistance, Making Better Use of Available Resources

*Strategy 2:* Prior to establishment of local teen crisis line, refer youth to counselors available through national crisis lines, such as the Teen Suicide Hotline at 866-210-3388, or the Hopeline Network at 800-784-2433 (organizational office in Virginia is 540-338-5756). Circulate information to schools, service providers, and local media.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Emergency Assistance, Making Better Use of Available Resources

#### **4.10 OTHER**

##### **4.10.1 Goal: Enable low-income people to have better access to community services**

*Objective:* Provide a revolving, traveling community resource coordinator in outlying communities of Carbon County

*Strategy:* Establish a County coordinator position that would facilitate implementation of adopted community service strategies. Examples of potential tasks would include, at least, the following:

- a. Serve as Tripartite Board liaison to local government, service providers, and other community organizations.
- b. Assist and coordinate with community service agencies to locate funding and other resources.
- c. Research selected community service issues to help social service agencies and Carbon County Tripartite Board make informed decisions concerning community needs and levels of funding required to support specific projects.
- d. Identify and evaluate options for the use of available sites and floor space that can be used to support community services.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003-2008

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources

**4.10.2 Goal: Help hurting families in Carbon County who are not eligible for low-income assistance programs**

*Objective:* Determine community service needs and the extent of demand for those residents who are not eligible for low-income assistance.

*Strategy:* Review available demographic information for Carbon County to determine numbers of families and individuals whose income levels are just over the federal poverty guidelines, making them ineligible for many assistance programs. Identify community service needs through discussions with representatives of the Carbon County Public Health office. Determine ways and means that financial assistance and/or other resources can be provided to help these people hurt less.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County, Department of Family Services, Carbon County Public Health

*Schedule for Completion:* 2004

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Education, Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

**4.10.3 Goal: Enable residents of Carbon County to help their needy neighbors**

*Objective:* Involve community in resolving low-income needs by providing financial assistance to a low-income family or individual for a year

*Strategy:* Prepare and advertise a “wish list” of unmet needs of low-income people that can be used by community organizations and churches to address specific low-income family or individual needs. For example, the “wish list” could include:

- 1) provide child car seat(s) for use by low-income families in Baggs,
- 2) Adopt a grandparent program: provide transportation, minor home repairs, and/or housekeeping and other chores two times a week for a year,
- 3) Adopt a family/brother/sister/mother/father/etc program: donate \$20 (or some amount) a month for a year that will provide for the purchase of prescribed medications.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Develop list - Carbon County Tripartite Board, Coordinate and advertise program - Community Resource Center

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Making Better Use of Available Resources, Linkages with Other Programs

**4.10.4 Goal: Ensure implementation of specific goals and objectives stated in Carbon County Tripartite Board's Community Needs Assessment**

*Objective:* Expand responsibility of the Carbon County Community Resource Center (CCCRC)

*Strategy:* Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board should initiate and hold a meeting with the CCCRC to 1) recognize the importance of regular coordination among Carbon County service providers and 2) discuss how the CCCRC can expand their organization responsibilities. As CCCRC has done in the past, they should be encouraged to hold regularly scheduled meetings among participating agencies to share information, develop specific strategies, and present recommended project funding and priorities to the CCAC Tripartite Board. The CCCRC could initiate many of the community needs goals. The CCCRC could also gauge some of the community needs accomplishments and provide valuable information back to the Tripartite Board.

*Responsibility for Implementation:* Carbon County Tripartite Board, Carbon County Community Resource Center, service providers

*Schedule for Completion:* 2003

*Other Service Categories Impacted:* Linkages with Other Programs, Making Better Use of Available Resources

# **APPENDIX A**

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

<b>Saratoga</b>	<b>June 27, 2002</b>
<b>Medicine Bow</b>	<b>July 1, 2002</b>
<b>Baggs</b>	<b>July 2, 2002</b>
<b>Rawlins</b>	<b>July 8, 2002</b>

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board

**From:** Sandy Pedersen

**Subject:** Summary of Public Meeting  
Carbon County Community Needs Assessment

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2002

**Location:** Saratoga Town Hall

**Number of People in Attendance:** 10 (Attendance list is attached.)

**Number of Surveys Collected:** 4

**Number of Priority Ratings Collected:** 7

*(Revised Format, Prepared July 23, 2002)*

**DISCUSSION OF NEEDS FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS**

**A. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

1. Given the distances in Carbon County that residents must travel for hospital and emergency medical services provided at MHCC, EMTs located in various communities of Carbon County provide much-needed emergency medical care. Most, if not all, of the EMTs are volunteers who pay the costs for certification out of their own pockets. Financial assistance needs to be provided for mileage and accommodations associated with EMT training for certification, to ensure that our communities continue to have this valuable service.

**B. EDUCATION**

1. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention ([www.nicic.com](http://www.nicic.com)) could be a valuable information resource to assist communities in battling drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

2. There are many services available that the public is not aware of. The media should be utilized to bring that information to the general public, as well as to the awareness of the social service providers who will, in turn, pass that information on to their clients. Also as information is disseminated throughout the County, social service providers will be able to determine how to work together to better meet the needs of low-income residents.

### Follow-up/Suggested Resolutions

B2. Use the media as a source of getting information out to the general public. Service providers should develop periodic or issue-oriented news releases to be published/released by local media.

### **C. HOUSING (non-emergency)**

1. There are no low income or affordable rental houses in Encampment/Riverside and only three available in Saratoga. The HUD Section 8 application process is involved and lengthy; many low-income applicants do not have the capability to apply. Also, there are standards a house must meet before it can qualify as a HUD Section 8 rental home. Some realtors will identify qualified HUD Section 8 homes that are on the market. There may be needs to 1) assist low-income families in completing a HUD Section 8 application, 2) locate, identify, and qualify HUD Section 8 homes, and 3) establish a Housing Agency or develop a County-wide coordinator position to do both 1 and 2, as well as handle other low-income related housing needs.

2. There is an unmet need throughout Carbon County for assisted living housing for the seniors who fall in the gap between senior citizen housing and nursing homes. Many must reside in locations outside of Carbon County, making it difficult for family and friends to visit on a regular basis.

### Follow-up/Suggested Resolutions

C1. City of Rawlins, through the Community Development Director, probably has the best data to determine low income, affordable housing in Rawlins.

C2. Study may be required to determine number of assisted living units needed in Carbon County, and what locations. A cursory review of Census data concerning age levels in Carbon County would give a rough idea of the potential need.

### **D. MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

1. B1
2. B2

### **E. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

1. One of the major needs for low income families with children is the cost of medical needs, including transportation to and from medical services. In the case of families who do not have reliable transportation, emergency funds to cover the cost of gasoline or a taxi would make the difference in whether or not they receive the needed care.

2. In some instances, although transportation might be available for some families with very young children through a family friend, police or sheriff's office, or other volunteers, they are unable to utilize the transportation because they do not have an infant/toddler car seat. This periodic emergency could be offset readily with the strategic placement of car seats to be used for that purpose in selected police stations, public health offices, and clinics within each outlying community.

3. Many victims of domestic violence (usually mothers and children, or just children) are caught in a time period during which they may be homeless and without funds. Emergency assistance is needed to provide them immediate food and/or housing until they can start helping themselves or get the assistance available from appropriate social service agencies.

4. A1

Follow-up/Suggested Resolutions

E1. a) The CCAC Tripartite Board currently provides funds to specific service providers for uses such as transportation costs for medical/emergency purposes. However, once the funds are disbursed to the agency, the agency must make the determination, within the limited funds they have to work with, to prioritize which emergency incidents will be covered or not. Additional funds would be helpful so that the agency(ies) would not be so limited.

b) In some cases the Senior Services bus might be utilized to provide transportation.

c) In the Saratoga-Encampment-Riverside area, it might be possible to work out some contractual agreement with Glenn and Tonya Murray's shuttle service operation to provide door-to-door transportation to qualified elderly and low-income residents who need the transportation for emergency medical services.

d) In Nebraska, an operation called MidWest Transportation provided this type of emergency transportation service to the elderly and needy anywhere within the state. Information on this operation should be obtained to determine if a similar operation might be possible within Carbon County.

**F. NUTRITION/FOOD (non-emergency)**

1. The Carbon County area has adequate sources of food for the needy through private, non-profit food distribution operations in Rawlins and Saratoga, as well as the meat available through the local police and sheriff's offices and Division of Game and Fish for wild game road kill. There appears to be a good working partnership between these agencies, several church and non-profit groups, and Syril Kaake's meat distribution program. What is needed, however, are funds to cover the costs for storage and processing of the meat.

2. 38% of middle school students in Carbon County receive low-income free lunches. Bob Krisko, Assistant Superintendent, School District #2, may have additional information to determine if needs are being met in this area.

Follow-up/Suggested Resolutions

F2. Check with Bob Krisko, Assistant Superintendent, School District #2, and someone in School District #1, to determine if school children's lunch needs are being met in Carbon County. Determine any unmet needs.

**G. LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS**

1. B2.



## **H. DAY CARE/NURSERY/PRESCHOOL/AFTERSCHOOL CARE (10a)**

1. Encampment Preschool is striving to become a real educational facility, not just a children's care center. It would like to offer higher pay to attract better qualified and certified teachers. One of its preschool teachers is working toward her ECE degree. Otherwise, it is extremely difficult to find qualified persons in the Valley. It is currently seeking teaching positions to fill vacancies for next September. Encampment Preschool is licensed by the State of Wyoming. Besides enrollment revenues, it receives other support from various state and federal funding sources, including Title I services. 12 preschool children were enrolled this past season, and 10 children are thus far enrolled for this coming September 2002.

2. Available childcare, in general, is lacking in the Encampment/Riverside area. There are a number of care providers operating unofficially out of their homes, but no official, state-certified operations. Many times, parents cannot take advantage of childcare because of the high costs.

3. There are no provisions for adult day care for elderly seniors who still live at home or a relative's home. Many of them are home alone during the day.

### Follow-up/Suggested Resolutions

H2. The CCAC Tripartite Board currently provides funds to child care providers to offset high costs of childcare. Childcare provider establishes "scholarship" guidelines to help needy families. If more funds were available, more children could be provided childcare.

H3. Data needs to be established to determine how much of a need there is in Carbon County for adult day care. Local churches may be able to provide some information. The Police/ Sheriff's Departments' Home Alone Program probably will have the most definitive data on, at least, the number of seniors who are left alone during the day in private residences.

## **I. HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES (10g)**

1. With available medical services from MHCC, as well as the various health clinics and EMT volunteers throughout the County, Carbon County is more than adequately covered.

2. Probably what may be perceived by the general public to be the least reliable medical service has been birth deliveries and care for pregnant mothers. This perception may be changing with improved services at MHCC. For many pregnant women in Carbon County, the length of time to travel from home to the hospital's delivery room is not reassuring. While there was some discussion of the availability of midwives within Carbon County, that may not be a viable option as midwives will usually operate only within close distance of reliable medical facilities in the event complications arise.

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board

**From:** Sandy Pedersen

**Subject:** Summary of Public Meeting  
Carbon County Community Needs Assessment

**Meeting Date:** Monday, July 8, 2002

**Location:** Jeffrey Center, Rawlins

**Number of People in Attendance:** 11 (Attendance list is attached.)

**Number of Surveys Collected:** 6

**Number of Priority Ratings Collected:** 7

**DISCUSSION OF NEEDS FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS**

**A. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (10f)**

**B. EDUCATION (10c)**

1. Parenting classes continue to be offered by Public Health. Approximately six sessions per year are held, with up to 12 people attending per session. The books and day care are provided free to parents. Many who attend are required to attend by court order.

2. Information and resources regarding assistance needs to be made readily available. Communication and awareness among service providers needs to be improved, as well as passing it on to low-income families who need the services. Outreach to low-income families needs to be improved. In the past, although services were available, participants dropped out due to lack of follow-up and communication. Also, the stigma of being considered "low income" or having neighbors see that they are being visited by a social service worker was a deterrent to their participation. The approach and "packaging" of providing assistance must be looked at.

Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

**C. HOUSING (non-emergency)**

1. The City of Rawlins has a good handle on housing for low to moderate-income families.

**D. MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

#### **E. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (10e)**

1. Transient care fund is now being used for more than just transients. It funds emergency housing for Carbon County residents who are kicked out of their homes. Funding from United Way is inadequate. Costs for Carbon County residents quadrupled over the past year.

2. A shelter facility for the homeless and transient is needed. There is no agency for people with immediate housing need to go to.

3. There are no halfway or support homes in Carbon County. There is a need

##### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

E2. Stagecoach Apartments will allow free rent for a limited time for families who become homeless.

#### **F. NUTRITION/FOOD (non-emergency) (10i)**

1. Soup kitchen is currently closed.

##### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

F1. A group in Rawlins is attempting to get the soup kitchen re-opened.

#### **G. LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS (10l)**

#### **H. DAY CARE/NURSERY/PRESCHOOL/AFTERSCHOOL CARE (10a)**

1. Childcare for single parents is not adequate. Single parents who do shift work for WSP or other employers cannot find care for their children. Childcare is also limited for two-parent families. Care for two-year-olds and younger children is difficult to obtain. A 24-hour childcare facility is needed in Rawlins.

2. After school funding in Carbon County has been cut.

#### **I. HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES (10g)**

1. Dental services are not available in Carbon County for Title 19. Medicaid funds are limited. Dentists in Carbon County cannot afford to offset costs to treat low-income dental patients.

2. There is still a great need for assistance to cover medical care costs, medications, eye appointments, doctor visits, etc.

##### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

I1. Educate children about dental care at an early age.

#### **J. ELDERLY SERVICES (10d)**

1. Home care for elderly is needed. Program through MHCC needs to be expanded.

2. An assisted living center and/or adult day care facility may be needed in Carbon County. The need will not be clear until specific information is obtained.

## **K. VICTIMS/SUPPORT GROUPS (10k)**

1. A support group for parents who have disabled kids, problem teens, etc. would be helpful.
2. A single parent support group has been attempted in Rawlins. Five meetings were held with minimal turnout. It was then discontinued.
3. A group home and/or center for juveniles is needed in Carbon County. There is currently limited counseling availability, no support group. Currently, teens are sent to the detention center in Casper.
4. While there are many great services available in Carbon County, there is a group of people whose needs are not being met. For example, a person who is just released from jail may get right back into crime because all he has upon release is a bus ticket and a meal. He has nowhere to go, no money to get into a place of his home, etc. Voc Rehab's pre-release program is available, but only a small percentage of parolees are reached. A preparatory/support group or program is needed for parolees to ensure that they are prepared to be back in society and to assist them in becoming citizens who can work and make a living for themselves and their families.
5. There are limited resources and assistance for inmate families.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

- K2. A national hotline toll-free number is available for single parents.
- K3. Recently, a grant from the Juvenile Justice Center was received for funds to be used in Carbon County. The group that obtained the funds intends to re-open Kids, Inc.
- K4. To an extent, help for about-to-be released inmates is available while they are still within the WSP system. A quarter-way house for released inmates could provide immediate housing. It could provide counseling and other assistance to prepare them for getting out into the public. A partnership between WSP, the community, police enforcement, needs to be formed to deal with parolees who are in the community.

## **L. CHILDREN/YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES (10b)**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board  
**From:** Sandy Pedersen  
**Subject:** Summary of Public Meeting  
Carbon County Community Needs Assessment  
**Meeting Date:** Monday, July 1, 2002  
**Location:** Medicine Bow Town Hall  
**Number of People in Attendance:** 12 (Attendance list is attached.)  
**Number of Surveys Collected:** 8  
**Number of Priority Ratings Collected:** 8

**DISCUSSION OF NEEDS FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS**

**A. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (10f)**

1. More year-round job opportunities are needed for Medicine Bow's youth (ages 14+), as well as young adults over 18 years of age.

**B. EDUCATION (10c)**

1. It would be helpful to get the word out about what kinds of services and assistance is available.

Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

1. A community workshop providing information about services and assistance available through local, state, federal and private agencies could be held in Medicine Bow.
2. A computer with Internet access is available at the Senior Center.

**C. HOUSING (non-emergency) (10h)**

1. There are few empty houses in Medicine Bow. Most are not livable. Many are empty for part of the year as they are occupied by "snowbirds" (residents who live elsewhere during winter). Medicine Bow seems to be a growing retirement community.

**D. MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

1. Same as B1

## **E. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (10e)**

1. Emergency medical assistance is no longer available in Medicine Bow. They had EMTs and an ambulance at one time. They do not have enough volunteers to handle the program.
2. Although not a great need, emergency blankets and cots available during road closures would help the community deal with stranded motorists. Having approximately 20 cots and blankets available during Hwy 30 road closures would be of help.
3. Some families need emergency assistance from time to time to help pay for household utilities.
4. Many times families are unable to get needed repairs and maintenance from their local utilities services. These service providers do not have offices located in Medicine Bow or nearby and tend to be slow to respond. Some cases could be labeled as emergency level assistance.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

E3. Kinder Morgan (Energy Share), LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) are available for help with utility/energy needs.

## **F. NUTRITION/FOOD (non-emergency) (10i)**

## **G. LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS (10l)**

## **H. DAY CARE/NURSERY/PRESCHOOL/AFTERSCHOOL CARE (10a)**

1. There are no pre-school or day care services available. Not sure if there is a definite need for these services. And, if there is a need, there may not be a person to run the program.

## **I. HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES (10g)**

1. The Medicine Bow clinic is very helpful. Financial assistance is available through Public Health for emergency medical needs. The clinic seems to meet most medical needs of the community. It would help to have x-ray and lab capability.
2. Many residents are unable to find transportation to get them to needed medical services.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

I2. The recently arrived 7-passenger community van may help to resolve many of the transportation needs.

## **J. ELDERLY SERVICES (10d)**

1. A larger senior center is needed for Medicine Bow. Approximately 8 to 16 seniors eat at the senior center and 14-20 take out. There are, however, approximately 60 seniors who currently live in Medicine Bow. The small size of the senior center may be contributing to some seniors choosing not to participate in activities.
2. Better menus are needed at the senior center.
3. Seniors need continued home health care rather than a care home facility to move into. The Home Health Care provided through MHCC is good.

4. Seniors also need work to be done around their home. Seniors need someone who can assist them with small household chores that do not fall under the category of medical services. That need is compounded when the senior is incapacitated.

Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

J1. The abandoned bank building on the west side of town, off State Highway 487, would be ideal for use as a Senior Center. It is for sale. It would be great to acquire CDBG funds to help purchase and improve that building for a new senior center.

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Carbon County Action Committee Tripartite Board

**From:** Sandy Pedersen

**Subject:** Summary of Public Meeting  
Carbon County Community Needs Assessment

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, July 2, 2002

**Location:** Baggs Town Hall

**Number of People in Attendance:** 7 (Attendance list is attached.)

**Number of Surveys Collected:** 0

**Number of Priority Ratings Collected:** 2

**DISCUSSION OF NEEDS FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS**

**A. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (10f)**

**B. EDUCATION (10c)**

1. Parenting classes through CCHEC have been held in Baggs from time to time, using the Boys Town format of parenting education. It is a good program that should continue to be offered.

2. There are no family planning services available, nor teen sex education awareness programs.

Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

B1. Ron Taylor, Physician Assistant at Noyes Health Care Center, may be willing to put together a program to help prevent teen pregnancy.

**C. HOUSING (non-emergency)**

1. There does not seem to be a need for low income housing in the area at present. Apartments would be nice.

**D. MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES**



## **E. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (10e)**

1. COVE has 4-5 trained volunteers located in Baggs who help deal with many emergency situations. They could use some assistance with expenses to cover the cost for their Baggs office.

2. The police, COVE, and local churches adequately provide food, clothing, and other emergency needs for families. There is, however, a stigma in Baggs and possibly other small communities regarding donated clothing. If a needy family gets donated clothing that's been collected in their community, the kids who wear them may be embarrassed if another kid in school recognizes that piece of clothing as one that used to be his.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

E2. Maybe churches or other groups that provide used clothing could do an exchange with a group located in another town. That way, the clothing they provide would not be from the same area, and the fear of embarrassment that some families have that their used clothing would be recognized could be avoided.

## **F. NUTRITION/FOOD (non-emergency) (10i)**

1. There is adequate provision for food needs. See E2.

## **G. LINKAGES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS (10l)**

## **H. DAY CARE/NURSERY/PRESCHOOL/AFTERSCHOOL CARE (10a)**

1. A childcare/preschool facility that would meet licensing certification is needed in Baggs. There is no one in Baggs licensed to staff such a facility.

## **I. HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES (10g)**

1. Other than transportation to obtain necessary medical services, the health and medical services in the area is adequate.

## **J. ELDERLY SERVICES (10d)**

1. Several elderly in Baggs have no transportation. There is a need for transportation within Baggs every day, as well as a once a month trip to Rawlins. Transportation is needed for transporting seniors to and from the senior center, to the grocery store, clinic, etc.

2. Don't know why there has to be two separate senior centers so close together; the Dixon and Baggs' senior centers should be combined.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

J1. Senior Services via Bill Michie may make available a van from Rawlins for several days during the week to provide needed transportation. UMTA funds may also be available; it will require matching funds from Carbon County.

## **K. VICTIMS/SUPPORT GROUPS (10k)**

1. Support groups to deal with specific issues are what is needed rather than government agency programs.

2. In spite of a DARE program locally, the past ten years has seen a rise in drug use by middle to high school youth. The users/pushers are 20 to 30 year olds. Enforcement is an issue. There are adequate police officers, but no arrests.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

K1. A Restorative Justice Program in Sheridan linked judges, police officers, social service workers to help deal with juvenile delinquents. (Also for G)

K2. A group in Carbon County is working to develop an Alcohol/Drug Addiction program to address issues dealing with alcohol and drug addiction.

## **L. CHILDREN/YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES (10b)**

1. While the school has open gym all summer and Wednesday night volleyball, 35% of youth do not participate in athletics or FFA and do not like organized-type activities. There is a need to provide activities or safe locations for them to hang out.

### Suggested Resolutions/Follow-up

1. A community center for Baggs would resolve a lot of needs. Different organizations could share in the cost and maintenance of the facility. It could house a day care center, a youth center, community events and activities, meeting facilities, etc.

# CARBON COUNTY SURVEY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS SUMMARY (244 COMPLETED SURVEYS)

## APPENDIX B-2

1. Are you **70** male or **171** female? **3** No answer

2. How many years have you been a resident in Carbon County? No answer: **17**

Less than 1 year: **3** 31-40 years: **17**  
1 to 10 years: **65** 41-50 years: **19**  
11-20 years: **21** 51-60 years: **27**  
21-30 years: **38** 61 & older: **37**

3. What is your racial background? **4** No Answer

**203** White/Caucasian **28** Hispanic  
**1** Black/African American **2** Asian  
**5** American Indian or Alaska Native  
**1** Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
**1** Other, please state **American**

4. Which community in Carbon County do you live in?

**12** Baggs **29** Medicine Bow  
**4** Dixon **103** Rawlins  
**6** Elk Mountain **3** Riverside  
**25** Encampment **34** Saratoga  
**16** Hanna **7** Sinclair  
**5** No Answer

5. If you live out-of- town in the unincorporated area, which Carbon County community are you closest to?

\_\_\_ Baggs  
\_\_\_ Dixon  
\_\_\_ Elk Mountain  
\_\_\_ Encampment  
\_\_\_ Hanna

Respondents apparently misunderstood this question. All recipients apparently answered Q4 indicating the community they lived in or closest to.

6. What is the total number of persons living in your household? No answer **5**

1 person **85** 4 persons **21**  
2 persons **93** 5 persons **6**  
3 persons **27** 6+ persons **5**

Indicates at least **496** persons represented in this survey.

7. What is the age level and number of people residing in your household?

Number of person(s)	Age level
<b>22</b>	Less than 3 years old
<b>25</b>	3-5 years of age
<b>62</b>	6-19 years of age
<b>39</b>	20-29 years of age
<b>55</b>	30-44 years of age
<b>51</b>	45-54 years of age
<b>47</b>	55-64 years of age
<b>95</b>	65-74 years of age
<b>90</b>	75 years and over

Indicates at least **486** persons represented in this survey.

8. Please indicate the number of persons in your household who are attending school at the following school levels.

**17** Pre-school **25** High School  
**28** Elementary (K-5) **4** Technical School  
**12** Middle School **24** College or University

Indicates at least **110** students represented in this survey.

9. What is your average monthly household income from all sources? (Do not include public assistance funds that you may receive.) No answer: **43**

Based on federal poverty levels:

1 in household - \$ 738 or less: **25**  
2 in household - \$ 995 or less: **8**  
3 in household - \$1282 or less: **10**  
4 in household - \$1508 or less: **5**  
5 in household - \$2278 or less: **0**  
6 in household - \$2022 or less: **2**  
**Total low income households: 50**  
All higher income levels: **151**

10. In the past year, has anyone in your household been a participant in or recipient of income or assistance from any of the following sources of human services? If yes (128), please check all that apply. If no, (99) check here \_\_\_ and skip to question 13. No answer (17)

**21** 10a. **Day Care/Nursery/Preschool/Afterschool Care** for infants and children.

**15** 10b. **Children/Youth and Family Activities**, such as family planning, consumer education, participation in Brownies/Scouts, 4-H, City or church-sponsored summer activities, etc.

**11** 10c. **Education** concerning parenting, literacy, bilingual education, early childhood education, adult basic education, etc.

**77** 10d. **Elderly services**, such as participation in senior center activities, transportation, nursing home or assisted living, SSI, Medicare or Medicaid.

**14** 10e. **Emergency Assistance** related to medical services, crisis intervention, housing, food, and clothing needs.

**8** 10f. **Employment and Training Assistance** such as job placement and counseling, job referral, aptitude testing, job training, application & resume assistance, vocational rehabilitation.

**66** 10g. **Health and Medical Services**, such as provided by public health, WIC, medical clinics.

**11** 10h. **Housing (non-emergency) Assistance**. Landlord/tenant issues, loan assistance, homeowner counseling, rental housing assistance, home rehabilitation and weatherization.

**29** 10i. **Nutrition/Food (non-emergency) Assistance**, such as home-delivered meals, surplus food distribution and family nutrition education.

**8** 10j. **Rehabilitation Assistance**, such as vocational rehabilitation, drug and substance abuse counseling, AA, services for handicapped, etc.

**3** 10k. **Victims and Support Groups**, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, victims of violent crimes, Al Anon Family Group; for persons with specific conditions, such as cancer, developmental disabilities, Aids, hearing impaired, blind, etc.

**8** 10l. **Other Assistance**, such as information and referral services, and other services that are intended to help you make better use of available resources. Please identify.

**Extension service, County library, Food stamps, LEAP, Wyoming Assisted Living, Senior Center, Medicine Bow Clinic**

Please turn this page over and continue.

# APPENDIX B-2

11. How satisfied are you with the level of services provided by the following types of agencies you use in Carbon County? Please indicate your level of satisfaction by using one of the following -- **G-Good, F-Fair, P-Poor** -- for each type of service.

Indicate G,F, or P

Reason for Poor Rating (see #9 below)

- ☐ 8a. Day Care  
☐ 8b. Children/Youth and Family  
☐ 8c. Education  
☐ 8d. Elderly Services  
☐ 8e. Emergency Assistance  
☐ 8f. Employment & Training  
☐ 8g. Health and Medical Services  
☐ 8h. Housing (non-emergency)  
☐ 8i. Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)  
☐ 8j. Rehabilitation Services  
☐ 8k. Victims and Support Groups  
☐ 8l. Other Assistance,  
 please state: \_\_\_\_\_

See page B-5 for responses  
to questions 11 and 12.

12. If no poor rating is given in #8, skip this question. If a P (poor rating) is indicated in #8, place the appropriate letter or letters on the blank line(s) above, provided to the right of the service, based on the reason(s) stated below. More than one reason may be given. **Example: P 8f. Employment & Training v,w,x,z-training not provided often enough,**

- T. Service is unavailable in Carbon County.  
 U. The staff or the service provider(s) is unfriendly, not helpful or understanding toward my situation.  
 V. Do not have reliable transportation to obtain available services.  
 W. Inadequate level or type of service that does not meet my needs.  
 X. Time or days that service is available limits or excludes my ability to make use of the service(s).  
 Y. The eligibility criteria for this service penalize me for earning income.  
 Z. Other reasons (please write in any other reason you might have for indicating a poor rating).

13. Are there any services that you travel outside of Carbon County to receive?

142 Yes 86 No 16 No Answer

14. If your answer was yes, what kind of service(s)? **Dentists 19 Medical 113 Vision 13 Shopping 8**  
**1 each: 4-H, Diabetes Support Group, Education, Insurance, Everything** (A few listed more than one service.)

15. Where do you travel to obtain the service stated in #13? (Some respondents indicated more than one location.)

Casper 40 Rock Springs 5  
 Cheyenne 37 Other: Please identify the city where you travel to:  
 Laramie 67 Craig 11 Denver 11 Ft. Collins 20 No Answer 102

16. If the service(s) that you use outside of Carbon County would become available in Carbon County, would you prefer to use the service in Carbon County, or would you continue traveling to the service provider(s) outside of Carbon County? Please check one of two preferences.

90 Use in Carbon County  
50 Travel outside Carbon County 104 No answer

17. What other service(s) do you feel is needed in Carbon County? Please list and describe.

**Responses on pages B-6 and B-7**

18. Other comments. Please write legibly below.

**Responses on pages B-8 and B-9**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND PARTICIPATION.

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS 11 AND 12**

11. How satisfied are you with the level of services provided by the following types of agencies you use in Carbon County? Please indicate your level of satisfaction by using one of the following -- G-Good, F-Fair, P-Poor -- for each type of service.

12. If no poor rating is given in #8, skip this question. If a P (poor rating) is indicated in #8, place the appropriate letter or letters on the blank line(s) above, provided to the right of the service, based on the reason(s) stated below. More than one reason may be given. Example: P 8f. Employment & Training v,w,x,z-training not provided often enough.

- T. Service is unavailable in Carbon County.
- U. The staff or the service provider(s) is unfriendly, not helpful or understanding toward my situation.
- V. Do not have reliable transportation to obtain available services.
- W. Inadequate level or type of service that does not meet my needs.
- X. Time or days that service is available limits or excludes my ability to make use of the service(s).
- Y. The eligibility criteria for this service penalize me for earning income.
- Z. Other reasons (please write in any other reason you might have for indicating a poor rating).

Indicate G,F, or P

**(Not all respondents indicated a reason for poor rating)**

8a. Day Care

**Number of Responses - Total: 37: Good 13, Fair 8, Poor 16, No Answer 207**

**Reasons for poor rating: 7 - W, 5 - X, 3 - T**

8b. Children/Youth and Family

**Number of Responses - Total 30: Good 8, Fair 19, Poor 3, No Answer 214**

**Reasons for poor rating: 2 - U, 2 - X, 1 - T, 1 - W**

8c. Education

**Number of Responses - Total 32: Good 17, Fair 13, Poor 2, No Answer 212**

**Reasons for poor rating: 3 - W, 2 - Other: "few options for higher education", "poorly qualified teachers"**

8d. Elderly Services

**Number of Responses - Total 80: Good 64, Fair 19, Poor 7, No Answer 164**

**Reasons for poor rating: 2 - T, 1 - U, 1 - W, Other: 2 - "need Home Alone service", "must travel out of town for services", "no program (Senior Services) in Hanna", "no one cares"**

8e. Emergency Assistance

**Number of Responses - Total 45: Good 28, Fair 11, Poor 6, No Answer 199**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - T, 1 - V, 1 - W, Other: "need ambulance and EMT", Hanna EMS too expensive"**

8f. Employment & Training

**Number of Responses - Total 30: Good 7, Fair 13, Poor 10, No Answer 214**

**Reasons for poor rating: 3 - T, 1 - U, 1 - W, Other: 2 - "no employment available", "not applicable to population needs", "low paying jobs"**

8g. Health and Medical Services

**Number of Responses - Total 78: Good 58, Fair 19, Poor 11, No Answer 166**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - U, 1 - W, Other: 2 - "too costly", "must drive too far", "must drive too far for serious medical matters"**

8h. Housing (non-emergency)

**Number of Responses - Total 32: Good 11, Fair 17, Poor 4, No Answer 212**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - T, 1 - Y, Other: "no Section 8 HUD in Medicine Bow", "no disabled housing", "need assisted living"**

8i. Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)

**Number of Responses - Total 43: Good 20, Fair 18, Poor 5, No Answer 201**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - T, 1 - U, Other: 3 - "food isn't so good (at Senior Center) sometimes"**

8j. Rehabilitation Services

**Number of Responses - Total 26: Good 5, Fair 14, Poor 7, No Answer 218**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - T, 1 - U, 1 - X**

8k. Victims and Support Groups

**Number of Responses - Total 25: Good 9, Fair 11, Poor 5, No Answer 219**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - V, 1 - T, 1 - X, Other: "don't care"**

8l. Other Assistance

**Number of Responses - Total 12: Good 5, Fair 4, Poor 3, No Answer 232**

**Reasons for poor rating: 1 - T, 1 - W, Other: "don't know all that are available", "not enough qualified foster parents", "no support groups - COVE is not supportive here"**

## APPENDIX C-1

### CARBON COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT PRIORITY RATING

*Instructions: Please review each identified need in the context of its importance to provide the best possible human services in Carbon County.*

*Prioritize each of the following needs by assigning a rating from 1 to 10 for each need.*

*A rating of 1 indicates a need that has limited importance;*

*10 would indicate you consider the need very important.*

Item	Need	Priority Rating
<b>A</b>	<b>Employment and Training</b> Job training, job counseling, job development, job referral and follow-up, work experience, spot labor, employment generating projects, application and resume assistance, job aptitude testing, and occupation and labor force information	
<b>B</b>	<b>Education</b> Information, referral and follow-up, counseling and guidance, public information and information regarding issues associated with lack of education and lack of adequate income, head start support, day care and parenting information, alternative educational measures, literacy projects, adult basic education, bilingual education, and early childhood development	
<b>C</b>	<b>Housing (non-emergency)</b> Information, referral and follow-up, homeowner counseling, loan assistance, landlord/tenant issues, rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, home repair, home rehabilitation and weatherization assistance, and home energy conservation.	
<b>D</b>	<b>Making Better Use of Available Resources</b> Personal, household and financial counseling, energy conservation activities, community resource directories, alternative energy services, consumer education, food cooperatives, family planning services, language translation, removal of barriers to self-sufficiency achievement, dispute mediation, and promotion of low-income people for local associations/groups.	
<b>E</b>	<b>Emergency Assistance</b> Crisis intervention activities, financial assistance, food assistance, clothing assistance, medical assistance, shelter assistance, other immediate urgent needs and issues, and “last resort” services.	
<b>F</b>	<b>Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)</b> Home-delivered meals, congregate meals, food processing, food banks, garden projects, surplus food distribution, and nutritional education.	
<b>G</b>	<b>Linkages with Other Programs</b> Information, referral and follow-up, local needs assessments, community outreach services, resource directories, multi-planning and coordination with other agencies, transportation assistance, improvement of coordination and cooperation with all public and private agencies, and other services/activities that complement or supplement those activities of other agencies to fill identified gaps in service levels and to prevent duplication of services.	

## APPENDIX C-2

### RESULTS

#### CARBON COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

#### PRIORITY RANKING OF SEVEN NATIONAL SERVICE CATEGORIES

Item	Need	Public Meetings Ranking	Tripartite Board Ranking
<b>A</b>	<b>Employment and Training</b> Job training, job counseling, job development, job referral and follow-up, work experience, spot labor, employment generating projects, application and resume assistance, job aptitude testing, and occupation and labor force information	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Education</b> Information, referral and follow-up, counseling and guidance, public information and information regarding issues associated with lack of education and lack of adequate income, head start support, day care and parenting information, alternative educational measures, literacy projects, adult basic education, bilingual education, and early childhood development	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Housing (non-emergency)</b> Information, referral and follow-up, homeowner counseling, loan assistance, landlord/tenant issues, rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, home repair, home rehabilitation and weatherization assistance, and home energy conservation.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Making Better Use of Available Resources</b> Personal, household and financial counseling, energy conservation activities, community resource directories, alternative energy services, consumer education, food cooperatives, family planning services, language translation, removal of barriers to self-sufficiency achievement, dispute mediation, and promotion of low-income people for local associations/groups.	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Emergency Assistance</b> Crisis intervention activities, financial assistance, food assistance, clothing assistance, medical assistance, shelter assistance, other immediate urgent needs and issues, and “last resort” services.	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Nutrition/Food (non-emergency)</b> Home-delivered meals, congregate meals, food processing, food banks, garden projects, surplus food distribution, and nutritional education.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Linkages with Other Programs</b> Information, referral and follow-up, local needs assessments, community outreach services, resource directories, multi-planning and coordination with other agencies, transportation assistance, improvement of coordination and cooperation with all public and private agencies, and other services/activities that complement or supplement those activities of other agencies to fill identified gaps in service levels and to prevent duplication of services.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

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